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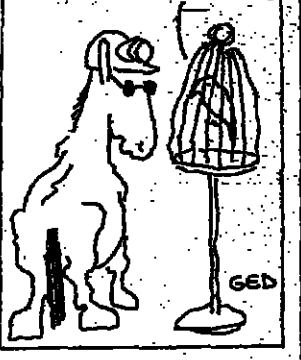
Industry criticism shakes Heseltine support

By Nicholas Wood and Jonathan Prynn

MICHAEL Heseltine's coal industry rescue plan was in danger last night as backbench Conservative support for the scheme was shaken by a barrage of criticism from leaders of the industry. On the eve of the critical Commons vote on the package, the leader of Britain's 5,500 colliery managers and engineers joined British Coal officials in warning that the rescue for 12 pits announced last week would prove short-lived. John Meads, general secretary of the British Association of Colliery Management, gave a warning that MPs were being "bounced" into approving the plan by the President of the Board of Trade to subsidise coal production but not to recast the energy market.

"I cannot see these pits keeping going for more than a few months, and most of the senior people in British Coal see it that way as well," Mr Meads said. Mr Heseltine's package, he said, would fall

Gone are the days when one had a job for life



apart if it were exposed to another week of debate and expert analysis. Mr Meads' intervention came as British Coal officials amplified their weekend warnings that the government's white paper would not halt the rapid rundown of the industry and the loss of thousands of jobs. Some of the 12 reprieved pits are "bound to close" within a year, they claimed yesterday. They decried the government's failure to expand the future market for coal.

As backbench Conservative rumblings over the package intensified, Mr Heseltine appeared yesterday to be trying to secure parliamentary approval for his proposals before being knocked off course by a renewed outcry. Winston Churchill, leader of the 30-strong Tory coal group that blocked Mr Heseltine's original closure plans last October, was among several MPs to

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Power to the people: President Yeltsin appealing to his supporters outside St Basil's Cathedral. Later he and Russian Khasbulatov survived congress votes to oust them

Yeltsin survives, pledging 'I obey only the people'

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin and his chief rival, Russian Khasbulatov, both survived attempts last night by the Russian Congress of People's Deputies to remove them from office. Members sought vengeance on the two men after a compromise plan — which would have eliminated the congress in favour of a smaller, two-chamber legislature — by seeking to impeach Mr Khasbulatov from office. The impeachment of Mr Yeltsin failed to attract the necessary two-thirds majority and there were insufficient votes for the simple majority required to remove his deputy.

The dramatic voting ended another extraordinary day of Russian politics which featured the biggest political demonstrations for some years. Even before the vote, an animated Mr Yeltsin told a rally near St Basil's Cathedral: "I will not obey. I will obey only the will of the people."

The motion for his impeachment attracted 617 votes against the required 689. A total of 298 congressmen voted for the removal of Mr Khasbulatov, against the necessary 517 out of 1,033 members of congress.

Earlier, Mr Yeltsin had stormed out of the emergency session and took his campaign to stay in power onto the streets of Moscow, after an attempt to end his power struggle with the legislature was rejected by the assembly. Congress then voted for a ballot to impeach the president and, turning on the conservative chairman Mr Khasbulatov, demanded that a ballot should also be held on his sacking. The deputies were annoyed by Mr Khasbulatov's agreement at talks with Mr Yeltsin on Saturday night to hold early elections to both president and parliament in November and to implement a power-sharing deal until then. In return, Mr Yeltsin agreed to drop his proposed April referendum. The deal proposed that the powerful congress should be dissolved and replaced by a two-chamber standing parliament.

Mr Yeltsin's Houdini-like escape from another seemingly impossible impasse has bought him time, but the future of Russia remains just as clouded

The Russian leader left the chamber punching the air and holding his fingers aloft in the victory sign. He joined 60,000 supporters outside the Kremlin, the largest demonstration in Moscow since the show of support for him two years ago. "We come together on a day when the fate of the president is being decided, your fate and the fate of Russia," he told the crowd, who brandished the red, white and blue Russian tricolour and responded with a deafening chant of "Yeltsin, Yeltsin". Standing before the

domes of St Basil's Cathedral, a pugnacious Mr Yeltsin vowed to ignore any attempt by congress to impeach him and, to cheers from the crowd, gestured dismissively towards the Kremlin where the deputies were meeting, shouting: "There, people are using all their strength to destroy Yeltsin, if not physically then by removing him from office... it is not up to those deputies to determine the fate of the nation."

The Russian leader said he was determined to press on with the referendum on April 25 on who should rule and that he would not return to congress: "I submit to the will of the people." On the other side of Red Square, some 10,000 opponents brandished Soviet flags and denounced Mr Yeltsin as a traitor. Police kept the two sets of protesters apart with barricades. Demonstrations also took place in St Petersburg, where 5,000 Yeltsin supporters were separated from opposition protesters by a cordon of riot police. Mr Yeltsin's confident appearance contrasted with a rambling and often confused address to congress on Saturday, which dismayed his supporters and led opponents to accuse him of being drunk. A spokesman later said that Mr Yeltsin had been suffering the effects of three nights without sleep and the aftermath of his mother's death last week.

Last night government ministers rallied round Mr Yeltsin. "The whole of the government supports him, without exception," said the first deputy prime minister, Vladimir Shumeiko. The defence ministry, responding to rumours of increased troop movements around the capital, denied that the army was repositioning itself. In this latest twist to the tortuous saga of Russia's power struggle, the country's unelected body politic is turning its aggression on itself. Mr Khasbulatov, the most vocal opponent of the government's reforms during the past year, has used congress as a forum for humiliating the president and its votes as a means of hindering the cabinet's work. But the assembly, having discovered its strength, is not prepared to see itself dissolved

— a step essential if there is to be lasting political peace. As events in Moscow prompted a rise in ethnic clashes in the northern Caucasus, Mr Yeltsin yesterday reimposed a state of emergency on parts of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. The decree bans public meetings, strikes and demonstrations and empowers Russian militia to seize arms and ammunition from individuals and organizations.

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Leading article and Letters, page 17

Tebbit demands Europe plebiscite

By Our Political Correspondent

THE case for a Lords amendment to the Maastricht bill providing for a referendum on the treaty would be greatly strengthened by a mass public response to the nationwide petition for a plebiscite, Lord Tebbit said yesterday. The former Tory party chairman was speaking as the organisers of the petition, who are hoping for at least two million signatures by the weekend, stepped up their efforts. A copy of the petition appears in *The Times* today. The petition is aimed mainly at the Commons, where MPs are expected to vote next month on a referendum amendment. But with the government and Labour both opposed, the best chance of a response could come when peers debate the bill in the Lords in the summer.

Lord Tebbit, who will tonight re-enter the fray by warning how the treaty would damage London's financial centre, said: "The government probably won't take any notice, but it will help to generate support in the Lords for a referendum." Pointing out that Lord Blake, the party's foremost historian, favoured a plebiscite, he added: "If we can put in a referendum amendment in the Lords, they will have a job to take it out in the Commons. The unelected chamber saying 'ask the people' is quite an attractive thought."

The former minister, who has infuriated government whips by urging Tory MPs to oppose the bill, will renew his campaign against the treaty at a London conference organised by City of London Concern over Maastricht. Other speakers will include Bill Cash, a leading backbench Tory opponent of the treaty, Professor Tim Congdon, one of the Chancellor's independent advisers, and Martin Howe, a barrister.

Petition coupon, page 8  
Leading article, page 17

Peace rally fills heart of Dublin

A CALL for peace and the end of terrorism in Northern Ireland brought more than 10,000 people to a rally in the heart of Dublin yesterday. Inspired by Susan McHugh, the housewife behind the peace initiative, the demonstrators pledged to back peace demands directed at the IRA and other organisations after the Warrington bombings, which claimed the lives of two children. The crowd gathered in the rain outside the O'Connell Street general post office, focal point of the 1916 Easter rising against British rule. Churchmen from five denominations, poets, singers and actors were on the platform to launch what they called the Peace 93 Initiative, "to channel public anger and revolution into positive and dignified action for peace". The rally came as relatives of some of the victims of the 1987 Enniskillen Remembrance Day bombing appealed to Gordon Wilson, who lost his daughter in the bombing, not to go ahead with his plan to meet leaders of the IRA.

French trawler seizes three Royal Navy men

By Michael Forsnell

A ROYAL Navy officer and two seamen from a British warship on fishery protection duty off the Channel Islands were abducted and taken to France by a French trawler yesterday as the fish war intensified. HMS *Brocksby*, a mine-sweeper with a 30mm gun which intercepted the trawler off Alderney for suspected illegal fishing, was forced to shadow it to Cherbourg before the three men were released. More trouble flared later at Cherbourg when French fishermen boarded the navy training vessel, HMS *Blazer*, and burnt the White Ensign. The patrol boat, with its crew of 14 including nine students, was prevented from leaving port. The defence ministry in London said last night that the trouble was brought under control by the French after three hours. The incidents, the second and third in three days, led to Foreign Office intervention and a protest by the British Embassy in Paris to the French authorities. Henry Frel, Cherbourg's vice-prefect,

Dumas falls in rout of French left

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE Gaullist party and its centre-right allies completed their landslide victory in the second round of the French elections yesterday, taking over 80 per cent of parliamentary seats and defeating a number of ministers. In the biggest French electoral swing this century, the Gaullist RPR emerged in front, leading the centre-right UDF by some 40 seats, according to estimates. President Mitterrand is expected to ask Edouard Balladur, a Gaullist, to form a government. Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, was among those defeated, and a television projection suggested a leading Socialist, Michel Rocard, would also lose his seat. Early estimates gave the Socialists 75 seats, and the conservative alliance was expected to win 474. The Communists were expected to keep their 25 seats. The far-right National Front lost their only seat. The ecology parties won no seats. It was then that the captain set sail for French territorial waters, leaving the mine-sweeper to follow it north. The defence ministry told the French authorities of the abduction and a pilot vessel was sent from Cherbourg to pick up the men outside the harbour and return them to the *Brocksby*.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Patten plans to end NUS closed shop

John Patten, the education secretary, will unveil plans next month to end the virtual closed shop of student unions. But the changes, which will cause consternation in Blackpool where the National Union of Students begins its annual conference today, may not be introduced for at least two years. A Commons statement is expected after Easter, confirming the government's intention to legislate to give 1.5 million students choice over union membership.

Instead of automatically becoming members of their local and national unions, students will have to opt in and pay fees similar to those levied by trade unions. He will also spell out his proposals for safeguarding "core services", such as student welfare, housing, catering, sports and entertainment, which will be mostly handed over to college authorities.

## Directors' holiday plea

Traditional bank holidays belong to "another era" and should be scrapped, according to the Institute of Directors. It is asking the government to abolish the existing system and allow companies to be free to set holiday dates to suit production schedules. Workers would still have eight holidays a year, besides Christmas day and Boxing day, but would not take them at the same time. A spokesman said: "We're in a recession. What business needs more than anything is stability — the ability to plan ahead."

## £3m gift helps Oxford

Sir Run Run Shaw, the Hong Kong multi-millionaire who last year withdrew his offer of a £10 million donation to establish an institute of Chinese studies at Oxford University, has now agreed to give £3 million to the project. Sir Run Run had become disillusioned by prolonged deliberations and by a dispute over the chosen site for the new building, which is in a conservation area. The project is now proceeding on another site, although it has been modified because less of his money is available.

## Hole-in-wall gems raid

A gang stole jewels worth hundreds of thousands of pounds after making a hole in a wall of a diamond shop in Brompton Road, Chelsea, southwest London, over the weekend as staff were preparing to leave. They grabbed handfuls of jewellery, mostly necklaces containing a variety of gems, then returned through the hole to a neighbouring building before escaping in a stolen van. At least one of the raiders was armed with a handgun but all of the staff at the Graff diamond shop escaped unhurt.

## University backs winner

Inventors at York University have developed a combined on-board heart monitor and speedometer for horses, which they hope to sell for about £300 each to trainers. Project leader Tony Roberts said: "There are ten million leisure and competition horses around the world, not to mention more than 80,000 racing camels. The potential is enormous."

## Former Tory MP dies

Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, 62, who was Tory MP for Newbury until the 1992 general election, died yesterday. Sir Norman Fowler, Conservative party chairman, last night described news of his death as "devastating". Sir Michael was believed to be the first MP to have had a kidney transplant, in 1990.

## Gordon Wilson's IRA meeting draws criticism and a plea for prayers



Mass movement: supporters of yesterday's Dublin rally against terrorism surround the statue of the trade unionist James Larkin.

## Thousands join Irish peace rally

By EDWARD GORMAN  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 10,000 people gathered in the rain in the centre of Dublin yesterday to call for an end to terrorist violence in a further manifestation of the burgeoning of a new peace movement.

The rally came as relatives of some of the victims of the 1987 Enniskillen Remembrance day bombing appealed to Gordon Wilson, who lost his daughter in the bombing, not to meet the IRA.

Mr Wilson, who was recently appointed to the Irish Senate and who last week attended the funeral of Johnathan Ball, the three-year-old killed in the IRA's Warrington bombing, has said that he wants to meet the Provisionals to ask them to end their violence. The IRA has accepted his offer and a

### Sinn Fein supporters are made unwelcome in Dublin as pressure mounts on Gordon Wilson to call off a meeting with the IRA

secret meeting is expected to take place in the Irish republic shortly.

At the weekend, however, other relatives of the 11 people killed at Enniskillen expressed concern that Mr Wilson was going too far. Aileen Quinton, whose mother was killed in the bombing, appealed to him not to continue his initiative. "By giving [the IRA] credence, it will only lead to more tragedy and more deaths," Ms Quinton told a Belfast newspaper.

James Mullan, who lost his parents, said that Mr Wilson had always expressed his own views and always would. "But I would like to make it clear that he does not speak for me, or represent me or my family," he added.

Stella Robinson, whose parents were killed, said: "I would not want to be in Gordon Wilson's position. Certainly, he does not represent me or any of the bereaved families that I know."

Mr Wilson was unavailable for comment yesterday. However, the doubts expressed north of the border about his plans were not matched at the Dublin rally, at which the crowd was urged to "uphold Gordon Wilson in prayer as he seeks to be a peacemaker". The rally was inspired by Susan McHugh, the Dublin housewife who decided to make a stand for peace after

the Warrington bombing. Mrs McHugh and those working with her yesterday announced a new movement, called Peace '93.

Addressing the rally, she again appealed for an end to violence. "All I can see is a trail of misery and devastation," she said. "I am the voice of a child saying today please, please, please make it stop."

The rally was addressed by the pop singer Sinéad O'Connor, who sang a new anthem of peace, and by churchmen and community workers from north and south of the Irish border and from Britain.

There were four arrests when members of Sinn Fein holding placards recording

the names of people killed by British soldiers in Northern Ireland, were "jostled" and booed by the crowd.

One man, wearing a white ribbon to mark his commitment to peace, told a Sinn Fein supporter whose placard had been ripped up: "You are making this political. We are asking you to not make it political. Would you please go?"

Some observers doubt that Mrs McHugh's efforts will lead to a huge and sustainable response throughout Ireland. Yesterday's rally was big, but not big enough, they say, and north of the border there has been little positive response.

The IRA has made it clear that it has no plans to give up, although it may be forced by the reaction to Warrington to switch its attentions, at least temporarily, away from bombing targets that risk civilian casualties.

## NUT asks Cox to devise an alternative

By BEN PRESTON  
EDUCATION REPORTER

BRITAIN'S largest teaching union is to invite the architect of the national curriculum for English, Professor Brian Cox, to devise an alternative to the government's tests for 14-year-olds this summer.

The National Union of Teachers wants the professor of English literature at Manchester University to set tests to replace the official ones, which its members are likely to boycott after a ballot. Doug McAvoy, the NUT general secretary, said that if the invitation was issued he hoped Professor Cox would produce tests which "a sensitive government, sympathetic to the concerns of teachers, might accept".

Professor Cox said he was willing to accept and would consult widely with people teaching the age group. Almost every teacher agreed the existing tests were "useless".

## Inspectors find faults with school testing

By JOHN O'LEARY

SCHOOL inspectors will add to the pressure on John Patten, the education secretary, to make substantial changes to the controversial national curriculum testing programme with the release today of a report on the third year of tests, 1991-92.

The report concedes that regular assessment is raising standards, but says the growing burden on teachers is preventing them from following up pupils' weaknesses. "The inspectors' findings will further fuel the teachers' complaints. One teachers' union is already boycotting the tests because of the workload involved, and others may follow suit next term."

Her Majesty's Inspectorate, which produced the report, says the tests have led to higher expectations of pupils, better planning by teachers and broader coverage of the curriculum. As more subjects and age groups are tested,

both the costs and the benefits will increase.

"This year, however, and for the first time, the benefits and the costs are finely balanced," the inspectors say. "There are some clearly discernible signs that the impact of 'teaching to the test' and the complexities of the assessment requirements could lead to a distortion of the positive relationship between teaching, learning and assessment."

Only seven-year-olds were taking fully established tests during the inspections. The report confirms that schools found the assessment system more manageable than in 1991, although the inclusion of extra subjects meant that teachers' workload increased. Shortcomings were more common in secondary schools, which were just introducing pilot tests for 14-year-olds.

Community divided, page 5  
Education, page 35

## Heseltine supporters shaken

Continued from page 1

voice disquiet after the latest disclosures. He said he wanted a categorical assurance from Mr Heseltine and Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, that they were trying to give the industry a genuine breathing space to become competitive at world market prices, and were not engaged in a "short-term political fix".

In further worrying developments for government whips, Elizabeth Peacock and Ann Winterdon, who voted against the government in October, and Sir Richard

Body, who abstained, expressed strong reservations.

Mr Heseltine insisted in a BBC television interview that while he had given British Coal a "very exciting opportunity" by subsidising production in the two-year run-up to privatisation, he could give no guarantees about numbers of pits. In a defensive performance, he denied that British Coal was challenging his forecasts. Government whips will make intensive efforts today to ensure that last week's support for Mr Heseltine's package does not melt away.

British Coal says it will use the opportunity presented by the white paper to go out and fight for new markets. However, its senior executives are concerned that the review has not addressed the "structural inequalities in the market" that led to the original pit closure announcement.

"Where on earth are the new markets going to come from? They just ain't there," one manager said.

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Photograph, page 20  
Market sceptical, page 40

## Howard admits new tax poses problems

By RACHEL KELLY  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Howard, the environment secretary, admitted yesterday that there were "disadvantages" to the council tax banding system, but predicted far fewer complaints from the public than when the poll tax was introduced in 1990.

A third of a million people have already enquired about appealing against their council tax banding even though appeals cannot be heard until after the tax is introduced, on Thursday.

Mr Howard, speaking on BBC TV's *Breakfast with Frost* programme, said wide regional differences in house values that exaggerated differences in income were "one of the disadvantages of the rating system", and were "to some extent a disadvantage of any property tax".

The Inland Revenue, whose listing officers were responsible for putting homes into eight bandings according to value and will deal with appeals, has already logged 334,000 calls from the public. Town halls, which will deal with discounts and complaints about bills, report thousands of enquiries. Islington, north London, is coping with 200 calls a day.

Estate agents Royal Life Estates report that of the valuation checks it has carried out on 175 properties in Lincolnshire, 44 per cent were placed in too high a band. The government has said it expects about a million appeals to be heard by valuation tribunals, but Mr Howard said yesterday that his department was receiving only 400 protest letters a week compared with a rate of 4,000 shortly before the introduction of the poll tax.

Maura Lee, policy officer from the Institute of Revenue, Rating and Valuation, the body which represents listing officers, says: "We're not expecting any chaos whatsoever. Not all the enquiries will lead to appeals, and we are fully staffed up to meet the demand."

However, law centres fear that where problems about bills arise, they will be harder to resolve than problems with the poll tax. John Richardson of Leicester Rights Centre said: "We're dreading it. Groups of people are liable for the council tax, and that is always difficult to deal with because one person may not pay up. Then there is the problem of people's changing circumstances, and changing entitlement to benefit. The tax over the year may have to be changed on a daily basis."

The council tax is being used as a model for the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. Representatives from the Treasury departments of Bulgaria, Poland, the Czech and Slovak republics, and Albania are to meet in May in Budapest to discuss how they might establish similar property taxes with Britain's Institute of Revenue, Rating and Valuation.

## Magazine to offer pages of discounts

MILLIONS of people will have the opportunity to save money when they shop with the launch on Sunday of a magazine offering pages of discount coupons. The eight-page publication will be inserted in *The Sunday Times*, *News of the World* and *Sunday's You Magazine*, reaching almost 19 million adult readers.

News International, publishers of *The Times*, has entered a joint venture with the *Mail on Sunday* to launch *Shoppers' Friend* and plans to publish four further issues in June, August, October and November. Coupon magazines placed inside newspapers are big business in the United States, but publishers do not know whether they will be as successful in the UK.

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## Howards End and The Crying Game could upset Academy Awards

# America plays down British Oscar hopes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

PATRIOTIC Americans have launched a counter-offensive against the significant number of British films, actors and film-makers nominated for awards at tonight's 65th Oscars ceremony.

Two of the five nominees for best film, *The Crying Game* and *Howards End*, are British-made. Stephen Rea, born in Belfast, stands a good chance of carrying off the statuette for best actor in the former, and Emma Thompson an even better chance of the award for best actress in the latter.

The large foreign presence at the Oscars has compounded Hollywood's recent and profound attack of self-doubt and has even provoked something close to defensiveness. "No, it's not just a case of rooting for the home team," said an editorial in *TV Guide*, the US bible of screen and celebrity addicts. "We really do think American actors and films will dominate this week's Academy Awards."

Some film critics have been unable to contain their resentment. Michael Kieran of the *Chicago Tribune*: "Howards End is a film that extols the virtues of the smug English class system, posh property rights and stuffily good behaviour." *The Crying Game*, Neil Jordan's sexually ambiguous IRA thriller, "raises androgyny to new heights [in which] every other character... is a murdering fiend or a pathetic weirdo."

The two British films are not only low budget, non-Hollywood productions, but fall

some way outside the traditional mould of American film-making, exacerbating Hollywood's gnawing fear that it is no longer in control of the way films are made. The huge budget blockbusters that usually carry off multiple Oscars are far less prominent this year, even Clint Eastwood's Western, *Unforgiven*, another nominee for best film, is about a cowboy who would rather not shoot people.

Films about transvestites rarely make it to the Oscars, and Hollywood is still in a giggling frenzy over the nomination of Jaye Davidson, the "woman" in *The Crying Game*, for best supporting actor. Speculation was still rife last night as to what he/she might wear to the ceremony.

With the invasion of the British, the prevalence of non-Hollywood style productions and the industry's general uncertainty over its cultural role, what is usually an all-out and thoroughly enjoyable exercise in self-congratulation this year has a flicker of unease around it. "Hollywood seems confused about this year's Academy Awards," said Bernard Weinraub, the veteran Hollywood correspondent of *The New York Times*.

The brash self-confidence that fuels the American film industry will undoubtedly return quickly if, as some predict, the American nominees sweep the board, more slowly if the foreigners triumph.

Tonight is traditionally the night when America, follow-

ing the advice of all the best therapists, looks at herself in the mirror and declares: "I am beautiful, I am talented, I am successful and, what's more, I'm not afraid to say it."

The annual extravaganza of glamour and hype that is the Oscars has attracted its fair share of criticism in the past, from those who say that it has little to do with film-making and everything to do with mutual back-slapping to others who charge it is racist, conservative, unnecessary and self-indulgent.

Carping apart, the Oscars have always had at least one important and therapeutic effect: they make millions of Americans feel that they are still on the cutting edge of popular culture.

The performance is watched by a billion people in 97 countries, but the Oscars ceremony remains a quintessentially American show, a moment when almost the entire country achieves that balance between pride and envy that is the first principle of the cult of celebrity. Failure to watch the Academy Awards ceremony is considered by many only marginally less unpatriotic than burning the American flag or forgetting Thanksgiving day or thinking Roseanne Arnold is a perfectly dreadful woman.

It matters less who wins the Oscars, or how the game is played, than that as many instantly recognisable people as possible are involved. Providing, of course, that most of the faces are American.



In the frame: Emma Thompson, nominated for best actress, in California

## MPs seek to halt extradition of ex-cult members

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of MPs is to urge Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to halt the extradition to the US of two British women who face allegations that they were part of a cult murder plot.

Last week, a High Court judge extended bail for Sally Croft, 43, a chartered accountant with a leading national company, and Susan Hagan, an aromatherapist. They are waiting for a decision by the home secretary on their deportation after the House of Lords refused them leave to appeal.

A decision by Mr Clarke to halt deportation would be without precedent because of the close co-operation between the British and American legal systems in extradition cases. Supporters, including Lord Scarman, and their legal advisers argue that the two women face a grave miscarriage of justice because of the frailty of the case against them.

The women were members of a religious community in Oregon set up by the late Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. The allegation against the two women is that they were party to a plot in 1985 to kill Charles Turner, a federal district attorney who was investigating the cult. Mr Turner was never attacked or harmed. The alleged plot was discovered by police in 1986 when they found what were described as surveillance photographs of Mr Turner's home.

One of the members of the cult later alleged that Ms Croft, accountant for the Bhagwan, had authorised money for a follower to buy guns. A second claimed Mrs Hagan had been present at

discussions about the plot. Both women left the cult in 1985 and have strenuously denied any knowledge of any conspiracy. Mrs Hagan lives in Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire, and Ms Croft lives in Greenwich, south London.

Andrew McCooey, their solicitor, said the decision to prosecute the two women was a political decision made only a few days before the five-year time limit ran out for charges to be brought.

"We have urged the home secretary to look closely at this case because when he looks at it, and he is a lawyer, he will see it is a terrible injustice. The only evidence is from former co-defendants who plea-bargained and got deals," said Mr McCooey.

There were also questions over whether the two would get a fair trial in Oregon, where there had been intense hostility to the cult. Mr McCooey said he expected a group of senior MPs would see the home secretary shortly.

In a lengthy letter to the home secretary, Lord Scarman argued that the delay in prosecuting the two women was oppressive and he raised doubts about the credibility of the evidence. The American authorities had refused to allow the defence to examine witness statements.

Mr Clarke has the power to reject an extradition if he considers it unjust or oppressive. There is concern he may be under pressure to allow the extradition because of the need to guarantee continued co-operation from the American authorities on areas such as the extradition of IRA suspects.

## Father and son killed by fumes in cottage

BY JENNY KILGORE

AN ACCOUNTANT and his four-year-old son died at their weekend cottage in Devon, poisoned as they slept by gas fumes from a heater whose flue was blocked by twigs and moss.

Michael Mason's wife, Debbie, 32, and the couple's younger son, Jeremy, 2, were in a critical condition last night in intensive care at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. They were found unconscious at the weekend by a neighbour who let herself into the cottage when she noticed the curtains were still drawn at midday.

The family, from Fulham, southwest London, bought the riverside cottage in the hamlet of Milltown, north Devon, two years ago.

Inspector Bob Brown of Barnstaple police said: "The flue that leads up the chimney was completely blocked at the top and bottom with twigs and moss. The gas from a wall boiler which provided the cottage with central heating must have built up during the night and poisoned the family while they were sleeping."

The family arrived for their regular weekend break at Bridge Cottage on Friday night. Norma Campbell and her daughter Lucy, 25, who live opposite the cottage, called a doctor after discovering the bodies. Mr Mason and his son Christopher were already dead. Last night, Mrs Campbell said: "We noticed that the curtains had not been drawn back in the morning. I became a bit concerned because they have two young children and are always up early. I have the key to the house, so we went for a quick look and that is how we discovered the tragedy."

"They were a really lovely family who loved their cottage. They always tried to get away from Fulham at weekends because they said it was good for the children to be in Devon. They loved the beach and the countryside."

"The little boys were well-behaved, charming children. It is such a tragic thing to happen. They were all devoted to each other."

## Sex assault on boy shocks villagers

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRAYERS were said yesterday for a nine-year-old boy who was abducted and sexually assaulted after being lured into a stranger's car. The boy was recovering with his family while people in the village where the abduction occurred were coming to terms with the shock of the incident, which took place in broad daylight.

The serious sexual assault took place in a toilet at Shalford Park in Guildford, Surrey. The boy had been abducted by a man while he was walking near his home in Onslow Village.

He was walking near a group of busy shops at 11am on Saturday when a scruffily dressed man approached him. The molester told the boy there were nasty men around and that it would be safer if he accepted a lift in his car.

The attacker is described as aged between 30 and 40, untidy dressed, with fair shoulder-length hair and a short blond beard. The boy was found by a passerby.

Yesterday, as news of the abduction spread through his village, a hundred worshippers at All Saints' church

heard the Rev David Coleman say prayers for the boy and his family. Mr Coleman said afterwards: "People are shocked. You read about this sort of thing happening but never expect it in an area like this, where there is a sense of community."

Although it is only a 15-minute walk to Guildford, Onslow Village has retained a "village-type atmosphere", according to Lynda Strudwick, a local councillor. "I suppose Onslow is quite an innocent area," she said. "Most people at the weekends look after their gardens, play football in the park and do a bit of shopping. We have all been shocked that something like this could happen in a very friendly village."

Children who attend Onslow first school and Queen Eleanor's Church of England middle school are told by staff not to accept lifts from strangers. Mrs Strudwick said: "It is difficult to know how these things can be prevented other than by parents and schools educating their children not to go anywhere with people they don't know."

## Farmer's wife sells gold crop

BY JOHN SHAW

THREE friends who found 784 Roman coins in a field in Leicestershire are to sell the bulk of the hoard for an estimated £9,000 to £12,000.

Janet Holmes, of Scalford, and Victor and Thelma Stubbs, of Melton Mowbray, were treasure hunting in a field near Rutland Water after the 1991 harvest when they caught their first glimpse of gold.

"They seemed to be scattered all over the place," Mrs Holmes, a farmer's wife, said yesterday. "The plough was bringing them up all the time. They were here, there and everywhere."

The coins and one gold ring are thought to have been buried by a Roman soldier about AD 410, when the empire was fighting the invading Picts in the north and the Saxons in the south. Rome itself was being attacked.

The collection is up for auction at Sotheby's, London, on April 20.

## Historians press for Stevens to resign

BY ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

JOCELYN Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, came under increasing pressure over the weekend from historians and conservationists to resign.

Mr Stevens faces opposition over his management style and proposals put forward in a paper, *Managing England's Heritage*. The proposals include the conservation of London region banding over responsibility for alterations to the capital's grade II listed buildings to borough councils and compiling a list of mon-

uments to be maintained by local authorities rather than by English Heritage.

A letter to *The Times* today from John Anstey of the Committee for the Future of London's Architectural Heritage seeks his replacement "so that the issues can be fully and properly discussed". He disputes the suggestion, made by English Heritage commissioners in *The Times* last week, that conservationists are waging "a malicious and personal campaign" against Mr Stevens.

The Victorian Society has also asked Mr Stevens to step down, describing him as

"not the kind of person who listens and learns". In a letter to *The Sunday Telegraph*, the society says the document at issue was "without consultation with any of English Heritage's expert advisory committees".

In a second letter to *The Times*, George Levy, chairman of Friends of the Iveagh Bequest at Kenwood House, northwest London, expresses his faith in Mr Stevens's commitment to the London region.

Letters, page 17  
England's battlefields, page 18

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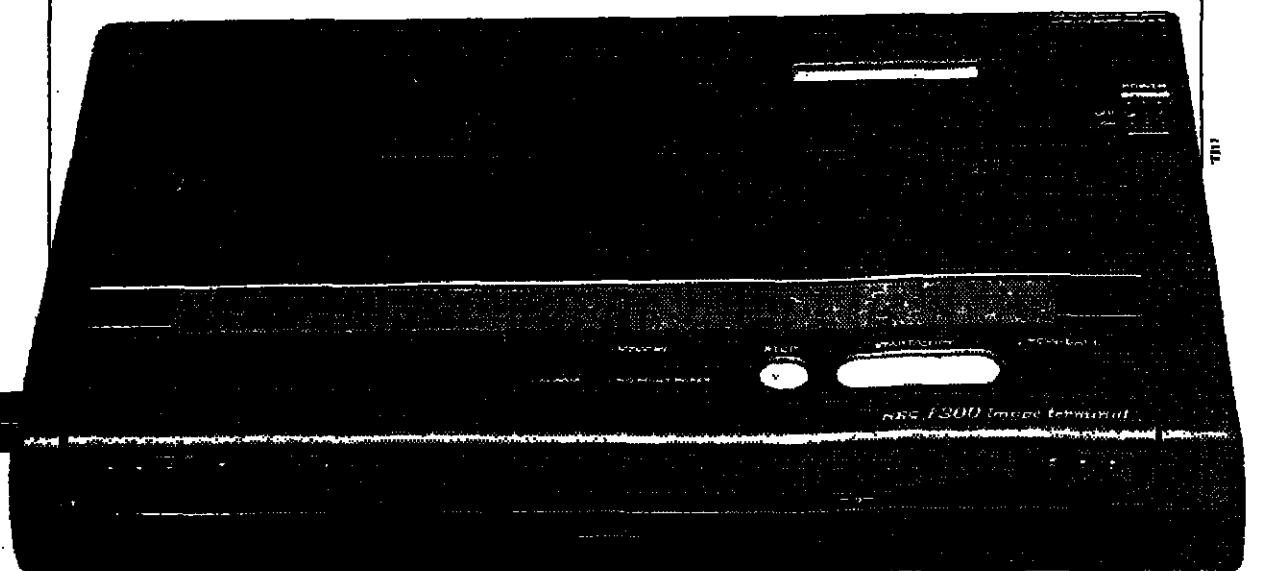
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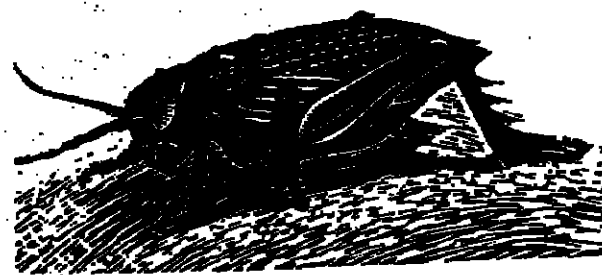
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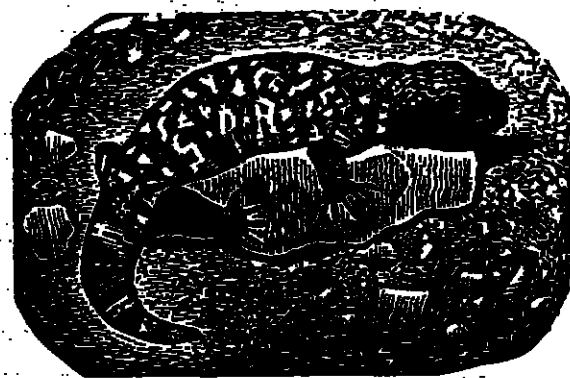
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FIELD CRICKET



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## Doctor who never says no fights for his call-out fees

By Elaine Fogg

A FAMILY doctor is challenging his local health authority in the county court after a dispute over the high number of out-of-hours visits he makes to sick patients.

Mention Dr Sandy Jordan to residents of Minehead, Somerset, and they respond with effusive praise. Dr Jordan, 64, who runs a solo practice, is known for having been on call virtually every night and day since 1957. Even Christmas day is treated like any other.

However, Dr Jordan's old-school, patients-first, philosophy has been questioned by Somerset Family Health Services Authority, which says that he makes five times as many night visits as other GPs in Minehead and is challenging his claims for night-visit fees. A night visit is classified as one between 10pm and 8am; GPs can claim £45 for it.

Dr Jordan, who can get by on under four hours of sleep a night, says that he does not claim night call-out fees for his routine round, which starts at 6.30am, only for emergencies. He insists that many patients on his list are elderly, dying, grieving or in pain.

In 1990, the year the authority first questioned the number of night calls he had made, the doctor completed 487 night visits. Then, he looked after 87 people over the age of 90.

Dr Jordan has now issued a county court claim for payment for 104 night visits.

"For 36 years, my approach to general practice has been to

serve the community 24 hours a day and not to count the cost," Dr Jordan said yesterday. "I am not going to alter my standard of practice in order to save the reorganised National Health Service some money to the detriment of my patients."

At a meeting last September, the authority spelt out its concern, alleging that some of Dr Jordan's visits before 8am were routine calls. Dr Jordan says that he was asked to undergo humiliating medical investigations, which found no evidence of psychiatric illness or disturbance.

Last month, Dr Jordan's solicitor demanded that the authority pay £5,625 in outstanding fees. The authority agreed, but a cheque arrived for only 22 visits. The GP says he is owed more than £4,000.

One of Dr Jordan's 1,530 patients, Sharon Rogers, 27, said that the GP had frequently made night calls to treat her children, aged one, two, four and six.

"I find it ironic that a doctor who does his job superbly and conscientiously is being penalised," Mrs Rogers said. "He loves his job. He is always so reassuring and jolly, day or night. If any one deserves to stay in the health service, it is Dr Jordan."

"Years ago, my grandmother suffered a stroke on Christmas eve. Dr Jordan came to visit my father the following day, Christmas day, to offer comfort," she said.

The authority was last night unavailable for comment.

## Schoolgirl squares up to challenge of world draughts title

By Ian Murray

AN IRISH schoolgirl is the favourite to win the women's world draughts championship, which opens today in Weston-super-Mare, Avon.

The teachers and parents of Patricia Breen, right, did not mind too much that she failed to do her homework last week, as she spent her time practising the moves they hope will see her wrest the title from Joan Caws, one of the game's all-time great women players, who has held the title for seven years.

The two played for the title in 1989, when Patricia was 13, and they drew 6-6, although at one stage the young challenger was leading 5-0. As reigning champion, Mrs Caws kept the title.

Under the international Elo rating system for draughts, Patricia, 16, from Carlow, is already the highest rated under-21 player in the world of either sex and is confidently expected to attain masters status later this year.

George Miller, an executive director of the English Draughts Association, said: "I have played her several times and a lot of it was quite embarrassing when she beat me. She is a natural player



and there have never been many of her age that good."

Patricia is more modest. "I began playing when I was about eight and it was just

good fun," she said. "I know I should read a lot more about it but I haven't really got the time."

She is hoping for a career

in accountancy and is studying that as well as mathematics, French, German, English, Gaelic and biology. She is learning the piano and loves

swimming and tennis. "I only have time for draughts on Wednesday evenings," she said. "Maybe it is better not to read too much anyway."

People who read too much don't know what to do if they come up against a situation they haven't read about.

## Mafia 'godmother' used London flat

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Correspondent

A SECRET London hideout used by the "godmother" who commands a wing of the Camorra, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia, is under examination by British and Italian police.

Roseita Cutolo, 57, was arrested a month ago in Italy after 13 years as a fugitive. Italian police have since discovered she kept a flat in the King's Cross area of London as a base. According to police sources, she used the inconspicuous flat above a shop for seven years until her capture and travelled in and out of Britain without being

checked. Both the Italian and British police will want to find out whether any of her associates were also living in London and if London could have been used as a conduit for funds from the Camorra.

There is already concern that the Mafia has made inroads in Britain in the past few years with little restriction. Mrs Cutolo merged easily into the background of a cosmopolitan area of north London, which has a sizable Italian population. As an EC citizen, she would not have been subject to any immigration controls and her presence in the capital illustrates the ease with which fugitives can move round Europe.

Mrs Cutolo was reported to have travelled to Spain, Brazil and Venezuela during her years on the run, but she was never linked to Britain. The discovery of her flat in London comes when the Italian authorities are selecting a senior police captain to work in London on the operations of the Mafia.

Mrs Cutolo took over control of the New Camorra after the arrest of her brother Raffaele. He created an organisation that covers about 30 clans with a membership of 5,000 and a reputed income of £750 million a year.



Cutolo: took over from her brother

## Secondary schools divide community

By Ronald Faux

THE peace of Penrith, Cumbria, has been shattered by a bitter clash over the future of the town's two secondary schools: one a large and dynamic comprehensive, the other the first grant-maintained grammar allowed to select its pupils.

The Penrith schools have one of the largest catchment areas in the country. By tradition, all went at age 11 to the Ullswater High comprehensive where, after two years, more academically inclined pupils could be streamed into the Queen Elizabeth grammar.

This happy co-existence is now threatened. Ullswater High is to have its own sixth form, with the option of a baccalaureate system, and the grammar school has been allowed by the education secretary to select pupils from age 11.

Opponents insist that selection is a return to the bad old days of the 11-plus, with the brightest and best pupils creamed off to the

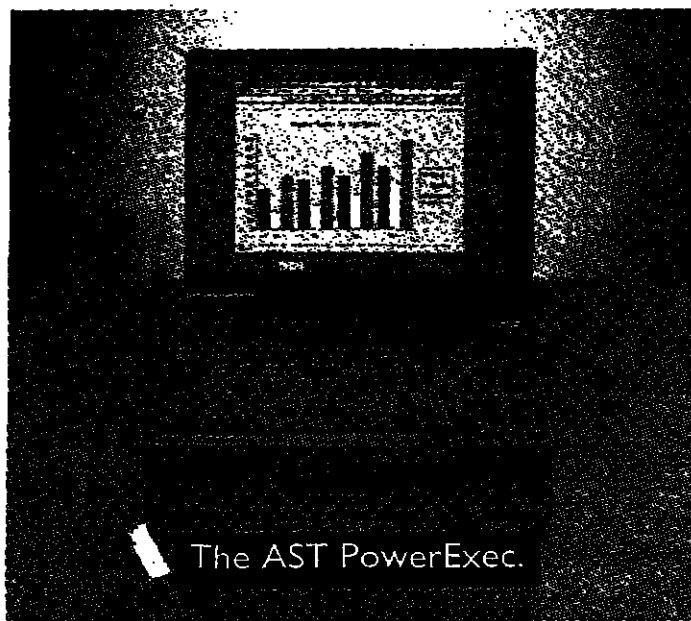
grammar school. Supporters of the grammar school insist that little will change.

Paul Goulding, whose son, 16, and daughter, 13, attend the grammar school, approves of the new arrangement. Two schools offering the full range of education would also offer a genuine choice.

"Now we will have two schools offering slightly different but very complementary types of education. That must surely be good."

Gavin Young, whose son, 11, goes to the Ullswater school, said: "If Penrith was a big town it would have been okay, but this is bound to revive that old stigma of the grammar school against the secondary modern, with Ullswater seen as the school of failures. I do feel very angry about it and that Patten has made a decision that will be very divisive in a small town."

School tests, page 2  
Education, pages 33-35



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## Old people's homes rush to fill beds before law changes

By Christopher Elliott and Angela Mackay

THOUSANDS of residential homes for old people have been scrambling to fill their beds ahead of sweeping changes in the law this week.

Some have adopted extraordinary methods: one pharmacist in the North West was approached by a resident of a home who claimed he had been offered a "bounty" by the owner to fill the bed.

Local authorities have been pressured to make decisions by Wednesday, before legislation shifts the responsibility for deciding whether old people need state-sponsored residential care from the family to the local authority.

Reporters working for *The Times*, approaching homes seeking accommodation for a hypothetical elderly relative, were told: "repeat teddy when they approach me" or "make a decision before April 1". *The Times* approached homes in Brighton, Liverpool, Bath, Bristol and Coventry.

New rules under the NHS

■ Carers already concerned at the quality of some old people's lives in residential homes are worried by new legislation.

and Community Care Act come into force on Thursday. Under the community care initiative, the automatic right to a place in a private old people's home, with the fees paid through a graded system of income support, will end. Local authorities will take over responsibility for assessing everyone in need of care and providing help, either in their own homes or in a residential or nursing home.

Private old people's homes have mushroomed in the past decade and the numbers of old people dependent on state benefits to pay the fees have followed suit. Places in private nursing homes went from 18,000 in 1982 to 108,000 in 1991, and in private residential homes from 39,300 in 1981 to 155,000 in 1991. Benefit payments have risen from £10 million in 1979 to an estimated £2.4 billion.

In a private home, the authority will meet the costs of

the old person's care but the costs of their housing will be met through housing benefit. Existing residents will be unaffected and will continue to have their fees met through income support, but the gap between the income support payments and the fees, the homes actually charge is expected to widen in only a minority of homes is the income support payment sufficient to cover the fees.

Organisations such as Counsel and Care, a charity which provides advice and help for the elderly and their relatives, and the Royal College of Nursing, fear that the changes will force homes to squeeze the quality of their regimes to offer the cheaper option to councils. Many of the smaller homes are expected to go bankrupt.

Enrique Pagan, chairman of the National Care Homes Association, which represents about 3,000 homes, said: "I know from my own experience that people are desperately trying to get people placed. Most homes are trying to be full from April 1."

She said that most of the 11,000 or so private homes work on very narrow profit margins because of high interest rates and the collapse in property prices: they need to be 80 to 90 per cent full.

Jef Smith, the general manager of Counsel and Care, has warned Tim Yeo, the health minister, of the charity's concern that the new arrangements will bring about a drop in standards of care. "It's all very well saying that competition will force down the price of places in homes but, if home managers have to make cuts in the quality of care, that will be very bad news for the consumers."

Additional reporting by Jeremy Lawrence

### Putting price on care

JANE, 75, was sitting with a number of other residents at a home in Brighton. When *The Times* entered the shabby room, she demanded to know whether we were from "the welfare".

She complained about the standards of cleanliness, accused the staff of stealing her cash and said that after being resident for three months she had been on three outings — only one of which involved getting out of the car.

In most of the seven nursing homes in Brighton and Liverpool *The Times* visited, staff appeared caring but standards varied widely. Dea House in Brighton

was clean, bright and spacious with prices ranging between £175 and £290 a week. Standards of care appeared high.

Cotton Lodge, a small residential home also in Brighton, charging the flat DSS income support, was not as comfortable and quite run-down, but the owner appeared genuinely concerned about her residents.

Alexandra Nursing Home in Liverpool, said, had been recently refurbished and appeared to be experiencing teething troubles — leaking bathpans and staff shortages — but the residents seemed contented and cheerful.



Doctor's orders: Paul Roderick with a week's drugs for one patient

## Night staff often hand out drugs for a quiet life

By Angela Mackay and Christopher Elliott

THE over-prescribing of drugs is a major factor affecting quality of life in residential and nursing homes. Recent studies have shown that more than half the drugs prescribed are unnecessary and often cause illness.

The breadth of the problem was exposed by a survey in *The Pharmaceutical Journal* of 50 geriatric units in Britain which found that one in ten admissions was caused by adverse reactions to drugs.

While much of the problem is caused by fragmented treatment by several practitioners and high doses given over a long period through inadequately monitored repeat prescriptions, *The Times* also found that staff at homes often asked doctors to prescribe

are made out and repeated ad infinitum.

Unpublished research carried out jointly by the Liverpool School of Pharmacy and Liverpool Family Health Services Authority showed that almost 87 per cent of the patients in a 40-bed residential home suffered new illnesses because of their medication.

The study, which mainly involved residents taking psychotropic drugs, also concluded that adverse drug interactions were common, patients experienced adverse reactions to drugs but were ignored and many were prescribed sub-therapeutic doses or high dosages over a prolonged period. Doctors and pharmacists said it was common to see elderly patients

'Staff call in the middle of the night and want me to come and sedate someone'

taking five or six different drugs daily and it was not unusual for some to take as many as 15.

This year, the health service's total drug bill will exceed £2 billion. The number of prescription items per person has grown from seven in 1980 to 8.4 in 1990 but 96 per cent of the increase is in new drugs for the elderly.

Pharmacists who deal with residential and nursing home prescriptions are alarmed by the amount of over-prescribing and believe the number of drugs can often be cut by as much as half without harm — indeed, quality of life is usually improved.

Paul Roderick, a pharmacist for 12 years, has a shop in Liverpool and services 13 homes with regular, bulk prescriptions — sometimes 30 or 40 at a time. If he spots a drug he believes is inappropriate he warns the GP. He has stopped dealing with more than one because of concern about practices.

"You have to be careful because many doctors don't like anything that can be construed as criticism. But reviews are important."

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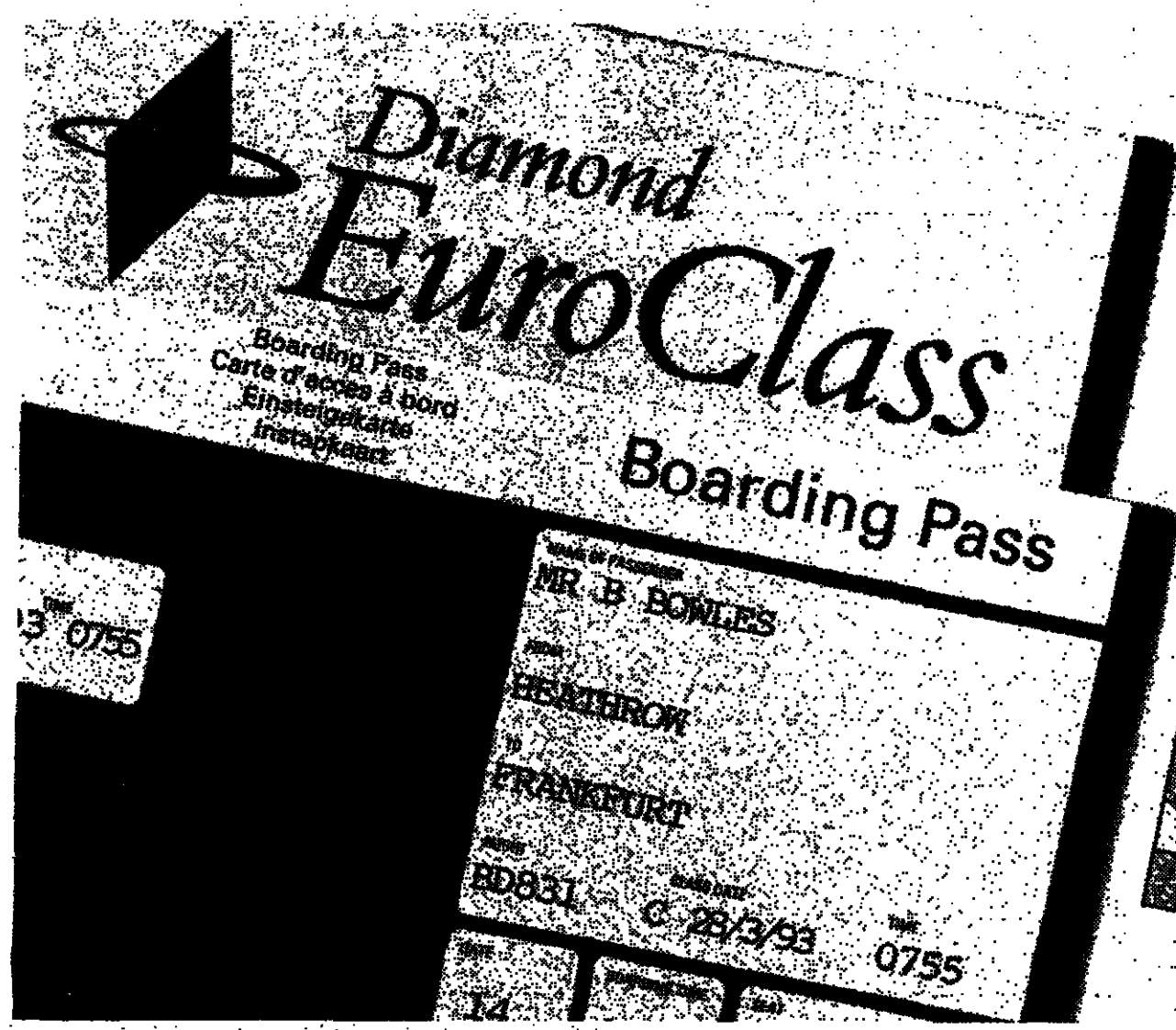






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Ninety days to lay down guns

## Somali warlords agree peace pact

FROM REID MILLER IN MOGADISHU

THE 15 factions, whose internecine fighting turned Somalia into a starving wasteland, agreed at the weekend to disarm and form a transitional government. The accord was reached after 13 days of negotiations brokered by the United Nations in Addis Ababa.

The pact calls for all factions to disarm within 90 days. Farouk Mawlawi, the UN spokesman in the Ethiopian capital, said: "Judging by the lengthy negotiations that went on for the last two weeks, I feel that we really have something that these various factions found acceptable," he said.

The proposed transitional government would run the country for about two years until national elections were held, Mr Mawlawi said. He did not say how quickly the transitional government would be formed.

The plan has three stages. The first is formation of a 74-member transitional national council, which would be the

"repository of power" in the East African country. The council would consist of one representative from each of the factions, five from Mogadishu, and three from each of the country's 18 regions. The council would choose the heads of administrative departments and oversee the appointment of regional and district councils.

The negotiations had been stalled by the resistance of four factions allied with Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the warlord who wanted regional councils to be set up before a central government. That method would have strengthened General Aidid's hold in some areas. It was not known what prompted the factions to drop their resistance.

Last night the commander of the American-led military coalition and the UN special envoy in Somalia disagreed on whether a May 1 target date could be met for a handover to the UN. The security council set the change-of-

command date last Friday as it voted to send 28,000 peacekeepers, the largest UN force in history, to Somalia to replace American and other coalition troops, which landed last December.

The UN envoy, retired Admiral Jonathan Howe, said the decision on when the UN will take over rests with the UN military commander in Somalia, Lieutenant General Cevik Bir of Turkey. Admiral Howe said Lt Gen Bir does not yet have adequate staff and the UN has had insufficient troop pledges from member states to meet the strength level authorised by the security council. (AP)

□ **Caaberrra:** A Somali security guard working for Médicins Sans Frontières in Baidoa has been shot dead by Australian troops, an Australian military spokesman reported here. The Somali was the fifth to be killed by Australian troops, but unlike the others the dead man was not a bandit. (AFP)



Age of change: a Coloured supporter of the National Party displaying its 1993 calendar, which depicts President de Klerk embracing one white and one Coloured boy

## De Klerk resists growing pressure to cut off Transkei

■ Although South Africa could easily crush Transkei, its creation, President de Klerk is loath to jeopardise constitutional talks

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

President de Klerk is under severe pressure from within the ruling National Party to take decisive action to end the defiance of Major General Bantu Holomisa, president of the nominally independent Transkei homeland, which has been accused of arming the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress.

Yesterday Mr de Klerk reacted swiftly to newspaper reports that he was considering a plan, including the suspension of financial aid, effectively to terminate the independence of Transkei and the Ciskei and Venda homelands which are also ruled by military juntas.

A spokesman in Cape Town said that although the major response to the findings of Judge Richard Goldstone's commission of enquiry into violence was unsatisfactory, hasty action would not solve the problem. Discussions at diplomatic level would be held with Maj Gen Holomisa this week, the spokesman said.

Some of the more recalcitrant backbench Nationalist MPs are comparing Mr de Klerk's perceived indecisiveness with the tough attitude they feel would have been adopted by his predecessor, P. W. Botha.

"Botha knew what to do in a crisis like this. He would go with his political guts and damn the consequences," said one MP. However, Mr de Klerk is aware that any form of economic sanction against Transkei would set off a huge influx of people into South Africa as well as endangering the lives of whites who live and work there. The African National Congress, with which Maj Gen Holomisa has close ties, also made it clear that it would oppose any unilateral action by the government.

Pallo Jordan, ANC director of information, said in Johannesburg that it approved of the reincorporation of the homelands into South Africa, "but not under the present government". It was reported yesterday that the plan to end their independence will be included in the multi-party constitutional negotiations due to resume on Thursday.

The general declared at the weekend that economic or military action against Transkei would force the ANC to choose sides and he had no doubt where its loyalties would lie. "P.W. is in a middle," he said. "His caucus has told him to take strong

action as a result of the Johannesburg killings but his threats against Transkei show he has no clear idea of what to do."

Maj Gen Holomisa is reported to have told P.W. Botha, the South African foreign minister, that Transkei would respond with military force if armed action was taken against it and that he would not be responsible if Transkei nationalists living in South Africa also retaliated. Although there is a considerable element of bluster in the threats — South Africa could crush Transkei, its own creation, with ease — the government is anxious to avoid anything that might escalate the violence already gripping large parts of the country.

There can be little doubt that Transkei was included last week in the private talks between Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader, and Mr de Klerk, who will be relying on him to blunt the Transkei leader's defiance. Mr de Klerk is in no mood to let the Transkei issue threaten the constitutional talks when they resume after nearly a year's break.



Holomisa: confident ANC will back him

Police have stated that two men arrested in the hunt for the killers of a white woman and two teenagers near Johannesburg ten days ago have told them they are members of the ANC. An ANC spokesman said that until their names were known the claim could not be substantiated. □ **Miners killed:** Seven black miners were killed and 20 injured, some seriously, in renewed violence at the Beatrix gold mine near Theunissen in the Orange Free State on Saturday night. Two men were killed at the mine on Thursday. Gary Maud, head of Gengold, the owner, said yesterday that the situation was very tense although half of the labour force, migrant workers from Lesotho, had returned home for their country's general election. (Reuters)

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## Party of commoners leads poll

**Johannesburg:** The Basuto Congress party yesterday took an early lead in the first general election for 23 years in Lesotho, the mountain kingdom surrounded by South Africa (Ray Kennedy writes). The party, which describes itself as supporting commoners, won the election in 1970 but the result was declared void by Chief Leabua Jonathan, leader of the ruling Basuto National party, traditionally a party of tribal chiefs and land owners. He was toppled in a coup in 1986. Voting at most of the 1,600 polling stations began five hours late. Apart from the two parties, voters had 16 groups to choose from.

## Unita spurned

**Johannesburg:** Angola's government has rejected a proposal by Unita rebels to resume peace talks next month, Radio Luanda said, as Unita claimed it had killed 153 government troops in Soyo. (Reuters)

## Vying for power

**Lagos:** Bashir Tofa, a Muslim businessman, looked likely to clinch the National Republican Convention's nomination for Nigeria's first civilian presidential election in a decade, due on June 12. (Reuters)

## Democrat wins

**Niamey:** Mahamane Ousmane has won Niger's presidential elections, according to provisional results. Mr Mahamane, a social democrat, won 54.8 per cent of votes in the deciding second poll. (Reuters)

## New party poses threat to Mugabe

FROM REUTERS IN BULAWAYO

**ENOCH Dumbushena**, who was Zimbabwe's first black chief justice, was unanimously elected yesterday to head the Forum party, a new opposition group which he described as a government-in-waiting. The Forum backs free-market economics.

At a meeting in Zimbabwe's second city of Bulawayo, about 500 delegates voted for the former chief justice. Among the delegates were white Zimbabweans who have been sidelined in mainstream politics for the past 13 years of President Mugabe's rule by the almost all-black Zanu-PF party. The 21-member party executive elected yesterday included critics of the government and white businessmen. "An alternative government-in-waiting has been born," Mr Dumbushena, who is 73 next month, told the cheering crowd. "Today it is Zanu-PF ruling. Tomorrow it will be the Forum."

The new opposition leader reeled out a list of national ills that his party will have to address. "There is now chaos in the economy. The government is unable to control its expenditure. The country is sinking deep into the mire of debt... is being ruined by the twin sisters of corruption and inefficiency. Some investors have gone back because they refused to pay bribes."

Mr Dumbushena, whose party espouses unfettered market economics to boost investment and jobs, pledged to privatise most state-funded firms, including the government-run media, if elected in polls due in 1995.



THE TIMES MONDAY MARCH 29 1993

# Mitterrand prepares to spoil rivals' honeymoon

FROM CHARLES BREMINER IN PARIS

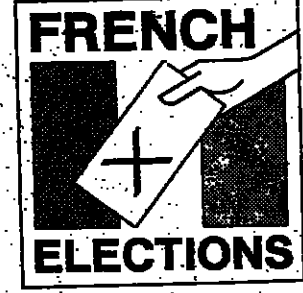
WHEN they were breaking the victory champagne at the headquarters of France's conservative parties last night, a whiff of anxiety could be detected amid the triumph. They were wondering, in the words of the old saying, whether "the bride might not be too beautiful".

The victors are aware that the historic scale of the conservative triumph, a sweep of more than 80 per cent of the parliamentary seats, could be so much of a good thing, signalling trouble in the months ahead as the new government, likely to be led by Edouard Balladur, enters "cohabitation" with a hostile president.

M. Balladur, 63, was busy over the weekend playing down speculation over potential for debilitating quarrels among the factions of the new government. Asked about the electoral "wedding", he said: "Only a groom who is unsure of himself is worried by *une mariée trop belle*."

President Mitterrand is expected to call on M. Balladur, a former Gaullist finance minister, to form a government within the next two days. His team is expected to move swiftly to impose itself on the public mind through tax reforms and a law and order crackdown. It will probably issue an immediate pledge of all-out support for the franc. There was speculation yesterday over a Franco-German initiative that would link lower interest rates with a French commitment to give independence to the Banque de France, the central bank.

M. Mitterrand may have been disavowed by his people, "the general of a dead army", as *Le Monde* called him, but he plans to give no quarter in a guerrilla war with the parties of his eternal foes, Jacques Chirac and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. An embittered electorate, which did not so much vote for the right as punish the Socialists, will offer no honeymoon. The government will be under enormous pressure to show quick results, especially



Mitterrand casting his vote in Château Chillon

minister, M. Chirac sees M. Mitterrand as a lame duck and he plans a swift offensive. Popular actions which can be expected from the new government include extra police in the troubled outer suburban ghettos and an operation to curb illegal immigration and make it harder for members of family of immigrants to come to France. The unexpected success of the far-right National Front highlighted the continuing strength of anti-immigrant feeling. On the economy, the conservatives are expected to press ahead quickly with privatising state-owned concerns, including banks and the Renault motor company.

The Gaullists have promised to defend French interests in Europe, even if, as M. Chirac acknowledges, the result will be a crisis in the Community. The question now being asked in Brussels is how far the conservative government will go to impose its will over its partners on agriculture and trade, given the risks of unravelling the alliance with Bonn and provoking a showdown with M. Mitterrand.

The president has vowed to fight the government on two fronts: one is the area of social benefits bequeathed by the Socialists, the other is European integration, which M. Mitterrand has made the pillar of his second term in office. The president's ultimate weapon, in the event of a battle, is his power to dissolve parliament at any time and call new elections.

Landslide win, page 1  
Diary, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

## Uneasy ceasefire holds in Bosnia

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

GUNS across Bosnia-Herzegovina were reported to be falling silent yesterday as a truce came into force at noon. The ceasefire was negotiated under United Nations auspices on Friday and by yesterday morning Sarajevo, the capital, was unusually quiet, although UN military sources said that heavy snow might have been partly responsible. Previous ceasefires in Bosnia have come to nothing.

According to Radio Bosnia, broadcasting from Sarajevo, three shells hit the city centre just before the ceasefire was due to come into effect, killing three and wounding five. Three hours later, the city was reported to be quiet.

UN military observers said that by mid-afternoon the only known ceasefire violation was a shelling of Tuzla airport just after midday. One British and one French helicopter, which had been standing by to evacuate wounded from the eastern town of Srebrenica, were reported to have been hit by shrapnel from mortars, apparently fired by Serbs. Both aircraft were able to fly, but nobody was wounded.

Forty-four Serbs were evacuated from Tuzla, which is held by Bosnian government forces, by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as part of a deal involving evacuations from Srebrenica. Thousands

of Serbs are known to be living in Tuzla, but it is unclear how many want to leave.

Sporadic fighting was reported around Muslim-held Srebrenica, yesterday morning, but according to Radio Bosnia, shelling eased in the early afternoon. A UN aid convoy was heading towards the town after Bosnian Serbs broke a promise given on Friday that the convoy would be allowed in on Saturday.

From Gorazde, another besieged Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia, there was a dramatic appeal for help as Radio Bosnia claimed that most of the food dropped overnight by American and French planes had fallen into the icy River Drina. It was the first time French planes had taken part in the drops. According to the report, 200 people jumped into the river to try to grab the food parcels. The radio also said that snowstorms were making other parcels hard to find. "We appeal to the UNHCR, to the UN, to Bill Clinton... to send urgent humanitarian aid to Gorazde," said the appeal broadcast on Radio Bosnia. "If such aid does not arrive in two days the people will collectively die of hunger."

General Philippe Morillon, the head of UN forces in Bosnia, was yesterday obeying orders to return to Sarajevo from his temporary base in Srebrenica.

# Andreotti's alleged Mafia connections stun Italians

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY'S political establishment was reeling yesterday after the announcement that Giulio Andreotti, the former prime minister who embodied the state for most of the postwar period, was under investigation on suspicion of links with the Mafia.

President Scalfaro came under pressure to open talks on creating a new government as the disclosure on Saturday, by Signor Andreotti, led to calls for the replacement of the fragile administration led by Giuliano Amato, the prime minister. On Saturday, Signor Amato effectively was disowned by Giorgio Benvenuto, the new Socialist party leader, who called for a broader coalition to tackle the economy. "Amato, who up to now has operated well, no longer is enough on his own," he said.

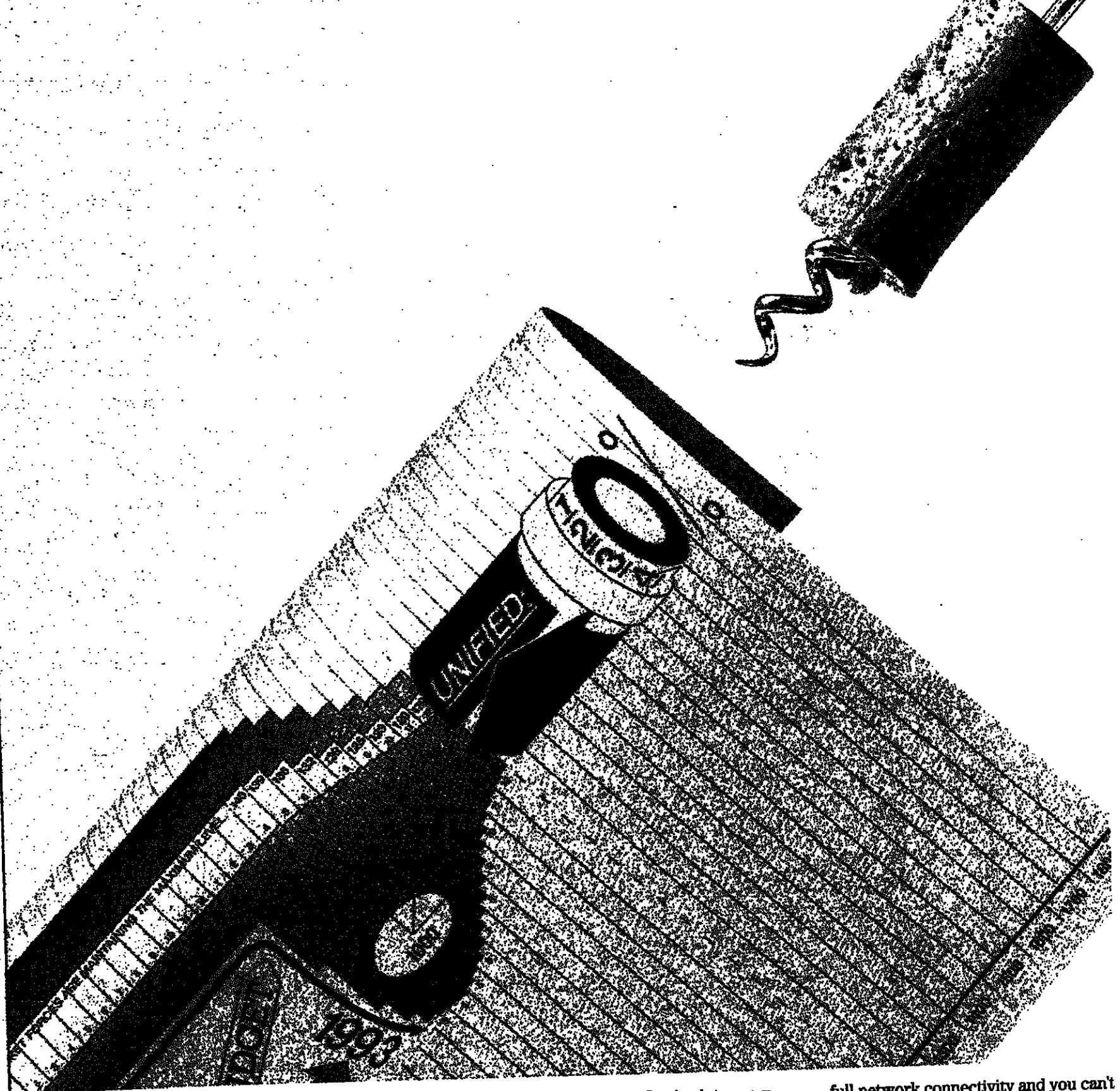
The uncertainty caused by the broadside against Signor Andreotti could jeopardise the outcome of the electoral reform referendum next month that has widely been seen as providing a way out of the chaos caused by the corruption scandal. Until now opinion polls said Ital-



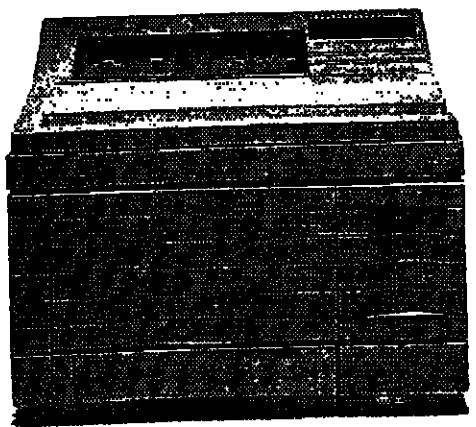
TV dinner: Giulio Andreotti dining with a Rome family for a television show at the weekend. Palermo magistrates have asked the senate formally to waive his immunity so that the life senator can face proceedings on charges of "complicity in Mafia-type association"

ians would vote overwhelmingly in favour of electoral reform, ending the proportional representation system that has led to fractured parliaments and weak governments in the postwar era. Since the Christian Democrats support the electoral reform campaign, the accusations against Signor Andreotti are likely to help parties campaigning for a "no" vote. *La Repubblica* said yesterday. Among the main opponents is Leoluca Orlando, the former Christian Democrat mayor of Palermo, whose new anti-Mafia party, *La Rete*, supports retaining proportional representation. Signor Orlando has repeatedly accused Signor Andreotti of being "the guarantor" of *Cosa Nostra* in Rome.

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President tells 60,000 at Red Square rally: 'Let the people, not the deputies, decide fate of Russia'

## Yeltsin wants popular vote after Congress spurns deal

■ A defiant president showed renewed confidence as he took his case to the people. Even the young came to listen to him

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin appealed directly to the people yesterday with a fighting speech to a huge crowd of his supporters, in which he promised to press ahead with the referendum he has called for April 25. The din of the rival demonstrations drifted over the walls and through the windows of the Grand Kremlin Palace where the bitterly divided Congress of People's Deputies was meeting.

The president's appearance came immediately after the congress, the full Russian parliament, had thrown out a compromise between the president and Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary speaker and his rival, painfully brokered just hours earlier. Standing on the terrace of St Basil's Cathedral, Mr Yeltsin told the people: "We come together on a day when the fate of the president of Russia and of you yourselves is being

decided. It is not up to the deputies to decide the fate of the nation. I will obey only the will of the people." The crowd of 60,000 was the biggest since the August coup of 1991. Yelena Bonner, the widow of Andrei Sakharov, the leading dissident, begged the president in her speech: "Boris Nikolayevich, promise us that you won't compromise again." In recent days, Mr Yeltsin's supporters have been disoriented by his offer to abandon the referendum and agree with Mr Khasbulatov on early elections for both president

### REFERENDUM

and parliament in November.

To roars of approval, Mr Yeltsin punched the air and made a V for victory sign as he said that he would not recognise any congressional vote to impeach him. The president was looking confident and determined. In sharp contrast to his appearance in congress on Saturday night, when he stumbled on his delivery and appeared pallid.

For the first time, the pro-Yeltsin crowd yesterday included younger people. There was even a group of Rockers, dressed in their full gear, who said that they were for Mr Yeltsin. "so that the old days won't come back". Many people in the crowd had defended parliament against the communist coup in 1991.

Red Square itself was kept clear by a huge police presence, which separated the pro-Yeltsin demonstration from a smaller anti-Yeltsin crowd of 10,000, which converged outside the Kremlin at the north end of the square. Police on



Keeping faith: pro-communist protesters marching past the golden domes of a church yesterday to a Red Square rally of 10,000 opponents of President Yeltsin. On the other side of the barricades, Mr Yeltsin joined 60,000 supporters outside the Kremlin, the largest demonstration to be held in Moscow for two years



Bonner: demanded an end to compromise

horseback and others, armed with fire hoses, were nervous but by nightfall the demonstrations had remained peaceful. Many deputies, however, refrained from taking their habitual stroll to the Hotel Rossiya for lunch, fearing hostility from the crowd.

The pro-Yeltsin crowd waved a sea of Russian tricolours, the pre-revolutionary flag now restored as the national symbol. The anti-Yeltsin crowd had mainly red Soviet flags and another pre-revolutionary tricolour, that of St George, often used by Russian ultra-nationalists. These totally separate symbols illustrate the gulf in Russian society, mitigated only by the fact that

most of society is still politically apathetic.

In another ironic symbol of the way that both sides are wooing the armed forces, the only flag to appear at both demonstrations was the official military ensign, the St Andrews Cross.

At the anti-Yeltsin demonstration were several posters denouncing Mr Yeltsin as an agent of the Jews or America. One even threw in a belated attack on Mikhail Gorbachev, accusing him of being "the best German" and Mr Yeltsin of being "the best American".

Yeltsin survives, page 1  
Letters, page 17

## Kremlin doubles minimum wage

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday acknowledged the crippling effects of his economic reforms on large segments of society and issued decrees to help those hit hardest.

The president doubled the minimum wage, increased allowances for students and the disabled, improved health care funding for government workers, and gave regional governments the right to stabilise skyrocketing prices for basic goods.

The measures fulfil the pledges that Mr Yeltsin made in his televised speech on March 20 to accelerate free-market reforms, which have been thwarted by hardliners in the Congress of People's Deputies and by recalcitrant apparatchiks.

That speech, in which Mr Yeltsin threatened to impose "special rule" and seek a confidence vote in a referendum, touched off the worst political crisis in Russia since the 1991 Soviet coup attempt. His decrees were made public on the third day of an emergency session of the congress, called to resolve the crisis. The decrees, signed on Saturday and yesterday, would:

- Double the minimum monthly wage to 4,500 roubles;
- Give the government two months to come up with procedures to ensure Russians earn enough money or receive adequate pensions;
- Increase tax incentives for the production of consumer goods, and reconsider special benefits granted to exporters, such as tax relieves and exemptions from the law re-

quiring foreign currency earnings to be sold back to the state for roubles;

- Increase funds for health care for government workers;
- Step up social support for the poorest sections of society, such as the establishment of special subsidised stores;
- Increase allowances for students. A new \$1 million (\$680,000) fund will be created to help the disabled;
- Give regional governments the right to freeze prices for basic goods and services, using their own funds;
- Improve benefits for the military, including better housing and compensation for victims of accidents, military exercises and working with nuclear weapons;
- Require government agencies to consider the social consequences of all economic reforms and their effect on living standards;
- Require the cabinet to consult with trade unions about wages and prices.

In the same speech, Mr Yeltsin also promised to speed up privatisation of land and businesses, care for the growing number of unemployed, fight inflation, and stabilise the sinking rouble.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister, announced yesterday that Andrei Shapovalov, the first deputy economics minister, would become the acting economics minister. He replaces Andrei Nechayev, a reformer who was dropped from the cabinet last week to appease hardliners.

## G7 nations seek to shift aid burden

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton administration is leading a concerted diplomatic effort by the Group of Seven industrialised nations to shift the burden of financial assistance for Russia from individual countries to the multilateral level, which would include a more prominent role for the International Monetary Fund. The intention behind the G7 move is to avoid a boost in overseas assistance programmes amid a severe fiscal retrenchment in most Western countries.

This shift comes amid a recognition that the limits of assistance from individual countries have been virtually exhausted, even though President Clinton is currently putting together a modest American package for his Vancouver summit with President Yeltsin next weekend.



Clinton: fiscal squeeze prompts new approach

The need to shift the burden to the multilateral level also featured prominently in the discussion on Friday between Mr Clinton and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. Bonn is the largest contributor of assistance to Russia and, like America, faces a severe fiscal squeeze.

The largest part of the IMF-orchestrated assistance package would be the \$6 billion (\$4 billion) rouble stabilisation fund, promised last year but never delivered because Russia failed to enact promised stabilisation policies. The return of this package is now considered likely, even if Russia falls short of some of the normal criteria.

Russia will still have to undertake some efforts towards stabilisation, but the Russian government has already outlined a new carrot-and-stick economic plan, which combines stabilisation policies with measures, such as an increase in the minimum wage, designed to cushion part of the blow of keeping the money supply and inflation under tight control.

Currency stabilisation, although useful, does not amount to "real" assistance, because it does not allow for investment or expenditure. To accommodate this need, the proposals are much more modest, and unlikely to constitute the kind of boost which would miraculously help President Yeltsin to survive his political power battles.

## Top brass divided over allegiance

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

Russia's leading military commanders are divided over the power struggle between President Yeltsin and the Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow, according to Western defence experts.

The only public criticism of the Russian leader so far has come from retired commanders, whose influence could have a significant effect on the loyalties of the officer corps. Senior serving officers appear to be waiting to see who will win the political battle before declaring their allegiance.

The loyalties of the top echelons of the military are of key importance, and there are fears that many of the most senior commanders would prefer to support Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president. Mr Rutskoi is a former air force general who was honoured for bravery in the Afghan war, and he is liked by many of the general staff, according to defence experts. He is regarded as a prag-

matist, and has criticised Mr Yeltsin publicly over the pace of his reforms. One Nato official said: "Rutskoi is doing a great deal to cultivate people in the upper echelons of the military. There is quite a plausible scenario that would see the military fall in behind Rutskoi if he managed to get into a key position politically."

The key figure trying to keep the military in line is General Pavel Grachev, the minister of defence, who is loyal to Mr Yeltsin. Nato experts believe his influence is shrinking. Chris Donnelly, special adviser for central and eastern European affairs at the Nato headquarters in Brussels, has warned alliance ambassadors that General Grachev might lose authority among the senior ranks.

One Nato official said: "The general staff is split right down the middle between those who favour loyal-

ty to the old Soviet constitution and those who back a democratically-elected president. They are all trying to work out which way to jump."

General Grachev has his clique of supporters inside the defence ministry but there are many other commanders who come from a traditional Soviet mould which is more pro-army than pro-Yeltsin.

This category includes Colonel General Boris Gromov, who commanded the 40th Army in Afghanistan and whose career was nearly destroyed by his suspected support for the attempted coup against Mikhail Gorbachev in August 1991. He has been rehabilitated and is now a deputy defence minister. He owes his job to General Grachev but is known to be less concerned with constitutional niceties than with the future of the army and the nation's security.

According to Richard Wolf, an expert on the Russian military hierarchy from the Soviet studies centre at Sandhurst, one key military figure who is not "a Grachev man" is Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the general staff. However, he supports reform in the army and planned reductions in strategic nuclear weapons under the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Many of the military commanders tacitly supported the 1991 coup. Even General Grachev was suspected, but his career was saved when Mr Yeltsin rang him from the White House parliament building to seek his support. Admiral Gennadi Khvachko, the recently sacked commander of the Pacific Fleet, openly backed the abortive coup. The official reason for his dismissal was the deaths of four sailors from malnutrition. "But that was just used as an excuse to get rid of him," Mr Wolf said.

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## Algiers cuts ties with Iran in protest over extremist violence

■ Mounting evidence that Iran is using Sudan as a bridgehead to export its Islamic revolution is adding to both countries' isolation

By Christopher Walker

ALGERIA has broken all diplomatic ties with Iran and recalled its ambassador to Tehran, accusing both countries of backing the Muslim extremists.

The move came amid a deteriorating security situation and unprecedented marches last week condemning "terrorism" in which tens of thousands of Algerians chanted "Neither Tehran nor Khartoum - Algerian Algeria".

Algeria is the second African country to cut diplomatic ties with Iran this month. Zambia severed relations with both Iran and Iraq on March 11, accusing them of involvement in an alleged opposition coup attempt. Algeria's decision follows a growing wave of allegations that Iran is using Sudan as a base to export its Islamic revolution, with Egypt and Algeria seen as the prime targets.

Algeria has been plagued with attacks by Muslim milit-

ants who went underground after the government scrapped elections in 1992 when it became clear that the now banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win the next and vital round. Since then at least 600 people have been killed in the violence. Recently the fundamentalists have turned to attacking prominent officials who have only minimal protection.

Declaring the break in relations, a communiqué said: "Analysing the international situation, and particularly the interference of certain countries in Algeria's internal affairs, as well as their declared support for terrorism, the High Committee of State has decided to break diplomatic relations with Iran and recall our ambassador to Sudan."

Arab, Western and Israeli intelligence experts are convinced that Iranian revolutionary guards and members of its surrogate, Hezbollah, have set up a number of training camps inside Sudan as part of a carefully laid plot to destabilise Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Many of the Iranians are believed to have travelled from Lebanon.

The Iran-Sudan link is believed to be behind the terror campaign against tourism in Egypt, which has cost the nation nearly £700 million. The Egyptian authorities are convinced that members of the Islamic Group have been smuggling arms and money from Sudan and receiving training there. President Mubarak of Egypt, who this week goes to Germany, Britain and America, threatened to bomb any Iranian vessels attempting to establish a base in Sudan after publicising intelligence reports that the Iranian navy was planning to establish itself in Port Sudan.

Algeria, once regarded as one of the more radical Arab states, recalled its ambassador to Tehran in January, 1992 and reduced its diplomatic ties to a symbolic level last November. Algeria is now in a state of emergency with the capital and six other areas under nightly curfew.

Yesterday, in a hostile response, Iran Radio hit back at the Algerian government claiming it was being used as a scapegoat. "To cover its weakness, the ruling council has once again ignored the domestic elements that are to blame for Algeria's crisis and accused foreign countries of interfering in its domestic affairs," the broadcast said. It added: "This crisis will end only when the ruling council in Algeria respects the outcome of the elections and surrenders to its people's wishes."

As well as funding and training the extremists in Algeria and Egypt, Iran has been accused by the Algerian media of allowing militants to use its embassy fax machine to distribute banned FIS literature. The action against Sudan was the first taken by Algeria and followed close on operation between the Egyptian, Algerian and Tunisian security services in fighting off the fundamentalist challenge. □ Submarine due: HMS *Triumph*, the first nuclear-powered British submarine to visit a Gulf port, was due to dock at Abu Dhabi today, as part of a show of strength by the Western allies to match Iran's recent deployment of a submarine in the waterway, which is vital to the world's oil supply.

The arrival of the *Triumph* follows Washington's decision to send two nuclear-powered submarines to the region.



Concert party: young violinists demonstrating their skill to their parents and teachers during a weekend performance in Tokyo by more than 14,000 students. They are learning to master the instrument quickly by following the method of teaching developed by Shinichi Suzuki

## Cairo expatriates unnerved by Islamic campaign

From Christopher Walker in Cairo

THE wife of a British correspondent was spat at by a taxi driver in central Cairo yesterday because, although wearing a demure ankle length skirt and long sleeves, she wore no headscarf.

A few days earlier, two American women had battery acid sprayed on their trousers by Islamic militants who disapproved of any form of tight clothing. Both attacks took place in Cairo, one in Maadi, a leafy suburb which has become a centre for foreign residents in the capital. The incidents reflect the growing pressures facing the 35,000-strong Western community in this previously relaxed city.

Islamic extremists exploded in Cairo at Saturday lunchtime, the third blast in the city centre in four weeks. There was panic as the device exploded while being defused, killing one explosives expert and wounding seven other people, including senior police officers.

"The extremists are starting a new phase of challenge and terror in Cairo," Mursi Saad Eddin, a leading Egyptian commentator, said.

As a result of surging support for fundamentalism and specific threats against all foreigners by a militant Islamic group, opening a letter, strolling down the street, dressing up or talking to strangers are no longer mat-

ters of routine for expatriates whose presence is vital to the economy. "I am not frightened but I am more conscious," said one American resident who requested anonymity. "I think well about things before I do them. I do not cut through back streets any more. I do not follow the same route every morning when I walk to exercise. I broke the routine."

The growing mood of anxiety has prompted many Westerners to send their families home. Security measures have been tightened at the large British and American schools. Parents of the more than 400 pupils at the British International School, in the smart Cairo district of

Zamalek, have been sent a circular which indicates the sudden change in atmosphere. "During the present uncertain situation throughout Egypt and here in Cairo in particular, BISC has continued to operate more or less normally," it stated. "However, as the safety of all members of the school community is of paramount importance we have been continuously reviewing our daily routines... we are in close touch with the Embassy and the police."

School outings to Upper Egypt have been cancelled, as has riding at the Pyramids at Giza on the outskirts of Cairo, where it is feared children might be attacked. Earlier this week, Western embassies

renewed travel warnings to their nationals, telling them to be more vigilant and underlined the dangers of militant violence.

Women in some foreign tour groups have been told to don Islamic style head coverings. One senior European ambassador cancelled a family holiday planned at Fayoum, 65 miles from Cairo, which is a hot bed of fundamentalism.

The regional security office of the American Embassy has recommended to all American businesses to "review facility and residential security practices, especially those concerning access and package control, and where appropriate, personal protection".

## Passengers saved after ferry sinks in Ganges

Patna: All 75 passengers on board a ferry that capsized in the Ganges river in India's northeast Bihar state were rescued, officials said. At first it was feared that there were 150 people on board the ferry from Patna to Sabalpur Diara.

The boat hit a tree trunk floating in the river and capsized 20ft from the bank. Fishermen went to the rescue.

In Bangladesh, storms killed at least 175 people and left 200,000 people homeless. A ferry capsized near Bhola, 65 miles south of Dhaka, and up to 150 passengers were feared drowned. (Reuters, AP)

## Dissidents fail to oust Rao

Delhi: P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, survived attempts at the weekend by dissidents within the governing Congress (I) to remove him as party president (Christopher Thomas writes). This would have substantially reduced his authority, clearing the way for a leadership bid.

At a national conference of the party, Mr Rao's supporters used procedural techniques to ensure the move failed. But the party remains divided.

## Seoul's offer

Seoul: South Korea will consider ending its military exercises with America if North Korea revokes its decision to pull out from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Han Sung Joo, Seoul's foreign minister, said. (Reuters)

## Soldier killed

Phnom Penh: A Bangladeshi soldier serving with UN peace-keeping forces in northwestern Cambodia died after his unit was attacked northwest of Siem Reap by suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas, a UN spokesman said. (Reuters)

## Breaking ranks

Sydney: John Fahey, the prime minister of New South Wales has broken ranks with his Liberal party's historic support for the monarchy by calling for Australia to become a republic. He is the first right-wing leader to do so.

## Train derails

Seoul: At least 63 people were killed when a crowded South Korean train derailed in Pusan. The train, with 620 passengers, hit a sunken section of embankment near the outskirts of the port. (AFP)

## Avalanche toll

Kabul: The Afghan government dismissed a report by the British-based Halo Trust charity that as many as 100 people died in an avalanche on the Salang highway last week. Kabul says eight died. (Reuters)

## Caught in time

Bangkok: A Thai student, 20, who glanced at his watch during an exam has been accused of cheating after a supervisor found test answers listed electronically in his wristwatch-style radio-pager. (Reuters)

## World Trade Centre bombing

## Letter blames blast on US aid to Israel

From James Bone in New York

THE first evidence of a possible motive for last month's bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York emerged yesterday with publication of a letter, allegedly written by one of the men in custody, claiming responsibility for the blast and warning of more attacks if the United States did not end its support for Israel.

The letter said: "Our demands are: 1. Stop all military, economic and political aid to Israel; 2. All diplomatic relations with Israel must stop; 3. Not to interfere with any of the Middle East countries interior affairs."

Typed on a single sheet and signed by the previously unknown "Liberation Army Fifth Battalion", the letter was received by *The New York Times* four days after the February 26 blast, which killed six people and injured 1,000. The newspaper immediately gave it to investigators, who say they have now ascertained that it is "authentic" and was written by one of the five men arrested in connection with the attack.

The investigators said they had reached their conclusion by analysis of the hand-written return address in Arabic on

the envelope and comparison with typewriters found in the suspects' homes. They were confident that their evidence would stand up but refused to identify which suspect wrote the letter.

The five arrested men have all been described as Muslim fundamentalists. Two of the suspects, Mohammed Salameh and Nidal Ayyad, come from Palestinian families displaced during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"This action was done in response for the American political, economic, and military support to Israel, the state

of terrorism, and to the rest of the dictator countries in the region," the letter declared.

Claiming that the so-called liberation army had more than 150 "suicidal soldiers", the letter threatened more attacks against "military and civilian targets in and out of the United States" if the group's demands were not met.

Several of the suspects have been linked to Shaikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a hardline Muslim cleric seeking the creation of an Islamic state in Egypt, who has been in exile in America.

## Arabs delay decision on peace talks

By Christopher Walker

THE divided Arab camp yesterday postponed a decision on whether to attend the scheduled next round of the Middle East peace talks.

As Arab foreign ministers met in Damascus to try to forge a unified stand, the Palestinians came under pressure to lift their boycott and the Palestine Liberation Organisation announced that no answer would be given until next month.

Before meeting President Mubarak of Egypt last night, Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, said: "The decision on whether to send the Palestinian delegation will depend on the meeting [in Tunis] as well as the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus."

Although it remained possible that Syria, Lebanon and Jordan might go to Washington without the Palestinians, Arab diplomatic sources said that such a move would greatly weaken the chances of any lasting settlement emerging. □ Call to arms: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Marxist group within the PLO, has decided that it will oppose negotiations with Israel, returning to its "original radical tactics" (Hazhir Taimourian writes). The move is being interpreted to mean a return to terrorist tactics outside Israel, mainly Europe.

## Li weathers opposition to win second term

From Catherine Sampson in Peking



Li conservative who endorsed reforms

CHINA'S parliament yesterday voted Li Peng, the prime minister, to a second five-year term in office, but his reelection was overshadowed by an unusually high protest vote against his appointment.

About 210 of the nearly 3,000 usually compliant delegates voted against his appointment, and 120 abstained, despite his being the only candidate. When he was first elected prime minister in 1988, there were only 18 votes against and five abstentions. Mr Li is believed, however, to

have had to fight for his political life in recent years. His close involvement in the 1989 Tiananmen Square army crackdown and his hardline views have made him widely hated. His reappointment in effect ends the chance of a change in the official line on the 1989 killings.

An economic conservative, Mr Li, 64, saved his political skin by endorsing the capitalist-style reforms of Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, last year. He is believed to have fought off a challenge from

Zhu Rongji, a rising deputy prime minister, to keep his post. Mr Zhu, who was branded a "rightist", or liberal, in the late 1950s, is distrusted by many conservatives. Party veterans are also thought to have opted for the status quo to show the world that China is politically stable.

□ Washington: Asia Watch, the human rights monitor group, called on China to free political activists jailed for involvement in the Democracy Wall movement of 1978-81 and the 1989 protests. (AFP)

## Pakistan ministers resign in clash over army role

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

THREE ministers resigned yesterday in a mounting power battle that threatens the survival of the government of Mian Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani prime minister. The army, politicised despite assertions of neutrality by its new leader, has aligned itself with Mr Sharif's opponents.

It may be only a matter of time, therefore, before Mr Sharif is removed or the divided government falls. A general election would allow a comeback attempt by Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister, who is watching the unfolding turmoil from London. More ministers are expected to resign soon. The power battle

is between Mr Sharif and President Ishaq Khan, who has the authority to dismiss the prime minister and will exercise it if the army gives the nod. He dismissed Miss Bhutto's government in 1990 on the ground of corruption, although the real reason was the military's anger over her attempts to tamper with their powers.

Mr Sharif also wants to curb the military's powers. He is attempting to repeal a constitutional amendment, which enshrines the army's political role and keeps its menacing shadow over the young democracy.

The eighth amendment, as it is known, gives the presi-

dent sole authority to appoint the chief of army staff, and also empowers him to dissolve parliament. This arrangement puts the president and the army on the same side, and enables them to remove any awkward prime minister.

By announcing his intention to repeal the eighth amendment Mr Sharif has openly confronted the military. He did so because it became apparent that General Abdul Waheed Kakar, the new army chief, was gunning for him. Presidential elections must be held by December, and the army is determined that the post will be filled by somebody compli-

ant. President Ishaq wants to run again; his re-election would please the army.

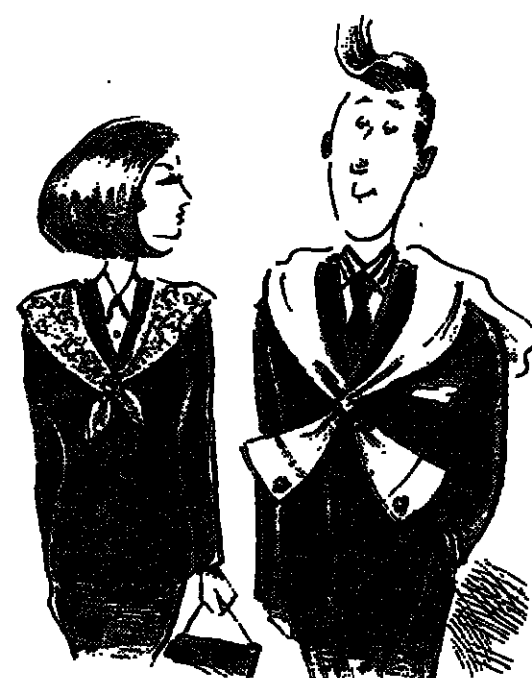
The cabinet ministers who quit are Anwar Saif Ullah, minister for the environment and the president's son-in-law, Muhammad Asad Junjo, an adviser with cabinet status, and Hamid Nazir Chatha, minister for planning. All resigned because they opposed the nomination of Mr Sharif to the presidency of the Muslim League.

□ Islamabad: Pakistan accused India last night of fabricating evidence to try to show that it was involved in this month's bombings in Bombay, in which 300 people died. (Reuters)



Sharif determined to rein in the military

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Striplings in the Sixties: seven famous faces at or near their second half century, from the left, Neil Kinnock, Britt Ekland, Paul McCartney, John Major, Norman Lamont, Tom Conti and Barbra Streisand

John Major is 50 years old today. Do you still think of him as a young man? I shall be reaching my half century next year so my interest in this is more than academic. Is there something different about today's 50-year-olds, or am I deluding myself? A lot of your approach to becoming (dare I say it) middle-aged depends on how fashionable it was to be young when you were young.

In my parents' generation, there was some authority and veneration attached to ageing. To be young still meant being callow, untutored and unwise: the thought of not being patronised anymore was enough of a reward to make you leap into your cardigan and sensible shoes. In public life, you scarcely counted as a safe pair of hands until you were nearly 60.

But when John Major and I (and Neil Kinnock and Norman Lamont and Howard Brenton and Baroness Blackstone and Paul McCartney and all those who are now around 50) were striplings in the 1960s, the young had usurped moral authority from their elders.

## Talking about my generation

On John Major's fiftieth birthday, Janet Daley wonders why the fiftysomething generation never feels really grown-up

Even the political leaders of the day — John Kennedy in the United States and Harold Wilson in Britain — were uncommonly youthful and both had taken over from exceptionally fusty predecessors. Not to be young then meant being a know-nothing, out of touch with the great liberating truths which we had woven into a coherent, if largely incorrect, analysis of the human condition.

And so, however repentant we may now be about the ideological follies of the time, we are still hooked on being young — which is peculiarly illogical when you think of it. Because, after all, we were as callow and unwise as any previous generation. And that is tantamount to saying that youthfulness as a fount of truth was over-rated. One reason we were able to bully our elders into accepting our half-baked philosophy was a purely

demographic one: because of the wartime baby boom, we were the largest generation of the day. We were able to set the pace, as much as anything else, by sheer force of numbers. The generation just before us was emotionally exhausted by the deprivations of war and so was a pushover for the hubris of an army of noisy tots who felt they had the answer to everything.

The answers may have been largely wrong but the exhilaration of feeling as if you had turned back the sea remains fixed in mercifully blurred nostalgia. To grow visibly older still feels like joining the enemy. But to talk of the 1960s which formed us as if it were one selfsame event is misleading. John

Major's 1960s as a young Conservative were quite unlike my 1960s as a borderline Trotskyite. Some poor wretches, buried in the provinces or in the fastnesses of traditional public schools, did not have a 1960s at all. And there were important differences between the phenomenon in the United States and its first cousin once-removed in Britain.

Americans of my generation took their liberation with a serious seriousness. They were reacting against the McCarthyism of the 1950s which had spread a miasma of repressive inhibition not only over the political life of the country but its social

relations as well. Time magazine had called the undergraduate era which immediately preceded mine "the silent generation": conformist and colourless, their unwillingness to make waves was actually a worry to thoughtful pundits.

As sure as night follows day, the reaction came. Our lot burst upon the scene, determined to overthrow every conventional value that we had inherited. What happened then has all become terribly confused with what happened slightly later. I was an active part of the first stirrings of student revolution at Berkeley in 1965 and I can, with my hand on my heart, say that at the beginning it was

a deeply puritanical movement. The object was to live a life completely without hypocrisy and moral compromise: that might include sleeping with people to whom you were not legally married but much more important was the belief that you should not earn a living doing anything which went against your ethical standards. Only later did this turn into an unwillingness to earn any sort of sexual hypocrisy become shameless self-indulgence.

On that count, Britain was way ahead. Here the 1960s were also about freedom, but the politics were more vague and rather second-hand. (The great Grosvenor Square demonstration was only about British complicity in Vietnam.) Having had much more severe privations during the war which continued, with rationing,

into the 1950s, Britain was in a mood for dedicated hedonism. Whereas American middle-class youth were into self-denial: they were deliberately depriving themselves of the sort of comfortable careers which they could have expected. This was to be a life of sacrifice — renouncing the affluence and the bourgeois stability for which your parents had, in that favourite catch phrase, "sold out".

London was promenading in mini-skirts while Berkeley was courting arrest by burning draft cards. Not the same thing at all, really. But what the two places had in common was the delicious sense of being in Wordsworth's "very heaven". To be young was to own the world. But the irony is that we still own it because we are still the largest generation.

Having got over our aversion to earning, we also have more spending power than anyone else. The good news is that now that we have real power, it is safe to grow up. Happy birthday, Mr Major.

## Doctor Doom rides again

Matthew d'Ancona meets a historian with a grim view of the 21st century

The life of a seer is full of awkward decisions. If Professor Paul Kennedy were not talking with me in a London hotel, he explains, he would be with Al Gore discussing the future of the planet in one of the vice-president's weekly brainstorming brunches. This week, the glitched White House invitation must be declined. The professor has other work to do.

Five years ago, Paul Kennedy took the world by storm with *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, an unashamedly grand historical work which claimed that America was in

grave decline and became standard reading matter for diplomats, businessmen and dinner party chatterers. In the heady days of the 1980s, its declinist spirit seemed revolutionary and launched a thousand nervous seminars.

These days, decline is *de rigueur* and the apocalypse almost fashionable. Susan Sontag expects "apocalypse from now on" in epidemics, ecological crises and other daily disasters. In his new book, *The Spirit of the Age*, David Selbourne predicts the

coming of a new authoritarianism to cope with moral decline. And Francis Fukuyama, the Rand policy-maker who said that history had ended, last year painted a bleak picture of the bored, enervated "last men" who would populate our newly democratised world.

So it is no surprise that Professor Kennedy, the affable, softly spoken historian with friends in every chancellery, has turned *fin de siècle* prophet. His new book, *Preparing for the Twenty-First*

*Century*, continues the story told in *The Rise and Fall* and sees a sombre future for those nations that cannot cope with population explosion, technological change and the furious movement of capital around the globe.

"I'm not a terribly prescriptive person," he claims. "I'm not like those American futurist writers who have 27 ways of improving the world. I'm more interested in looking at disparities and trends and the ways things bump into each other." At the moment, his

book argues, there is rather too much "bumping" going on — just as there was when Malthus wrote about population growth almost 200 years ago.

Much of the book's territory (environmental disaster, population growth and the North-South divide) has been well mapped since the Brandt Report 20 years ago. The twist in Kennedy's tale is his suggestion that technology is doing more to compound the demographic crisis than to solve it. Without global co-operation, he suggests, bio-tech farming and robotics will wreck the labour markets of the Third World and spawn a frightening wave of social unrest.

We need to be creating 40-50 million new jobs a year to deal with the growing numbers of young people," he says. "You suddenly see that the demographic story cannot be separate from the technological story. And there is a larger dimension to this. Britain has a problem dealing with three million unemployed. How is India going to manage?"

His grim tour d'horizon ends with a plea for political leadership and a tentative list of those countries whose infrastructure, investment habits and manufacturing culture best prepare them for survival: Japan, Korea, Germany and Switzerland lead the field. The great Anglo-Saxon nations are nowhere to be seen as the four horsemen of the

apocalypse canter into view. Basing any prediction upon the state of technology is a hazardous business, of course. But the man the American papers have already hailed as "Vale University's Doctor Doom" is on more fertile ground when he looks at the affliction of the nation-state in the late 20th century.

"One response seems to be a Delorsian solution, which is to say we must work together as a united Europe because we can't solve these problems as a nation-state," he says. "But the alternate response is to say I want to get out of this. I want to be with my own cultural, ethnic group and a search for smaller structures of authority and community". The breakup of Yugoslavia, the growth of Brussels bureaucracy and the pressure for constitutional change in Britain may all be part of the same structural dilemma — although it is odd to think of Slobodan Milosevic, Jacques Delors and Charles 88 beating the same anxious drum.

Prophet and loss: Paul Kennedy says a seer's life is hard

publish books which will translate new ideas into layman's terms.

The professor, too, regrets this narrow-mindedness and the contempt of many historians for the kind of grandiose works of synthesis and speculation which he writes. He wonders what has happened to the glorious tradition of Fernand Braudel, the French historian who charted the origins of capitalist civilisation and relished the *longue durée* of time. "This is by no means to say that I'm able to do what Braudel did," he says. "But

there are few people who will do the long sweep of history". So what is it like to find yourself a prophet? Well, he says, he doesn't relish it: the chat shows, the trips to Osaka to tell Visa executives where the world is going, and the barrage of abuse from reviewers. But there are compensations. He is enthused by "the public hunger and political need" for works of historical speculation and amused by the fury of the American establishment. Life as a seer in the last days may be tough; but it isn't the end of the world.

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## How to get a quilt complex

Seventy-five years ago this spring, the first British women won the right to vote in Parliamentary elections. Down at *Woman's Hour* they brooded for a bit before coming up with the only possible response: make an enormous quilt about it. Accordingly, an appeal has gone out for ten-inch squares, embroidered or appliquéd with designs symbolising women's achievements during those 75 years. These will be sewn together and exhibited at (or given the potential scale of the thing, draped over) the House of Commons this summer.

The tormenting question is, what will women choose to symbolise? This whole project could turn into a sort of mass Rorschach test of the female population, winking out our deepest feelings about what precisely 75 years of suffrage have led us into. There is no need to stick to traditional bedspread subjects: thanks to recent twists in rootsy, folksy feminism in the USA we all know about the "divorce quilt" showing rats and spiders coming out of men's mouths, and that alarming tablecloth with ovaries on it. These days, the needle is as outspoken as the pen.



LIBBY PURVES

So what shall we quilt? The easy option is to represent individual women's achievements: indeed, one of the first few squares to arrive showed the door of 10 Downing Street with the zero turned into a female symbol. It cannot be long before someone weighs in with a female judge, the first woman Concorde pilot, Anita Roddick (rising perhaps from an artfully simulated satin blob of politically correct seaweed lotion), and a tasteful cloak and dagger to represent Mrs Stella Rimington achieving the headship of MI5. If I could sew, I would knock up a pair of pince-nez as a private

tribute to Victoria Liddard, the suffragette and optician. I interviewed her in her flat in Brighton when she was 101 and she tottered around on a Zimmer frame making me a cup of tea and ordering me to sit down because I "looked tired". She was chuckling with glee at having just routed a visiting vicar on the issue of woman priests.

Ah yes, woman priests. They will have to go in, I suppose. So will miners' wives, Greenham campers and Peace Women. But will anyone remember the supermodels and the tabloid editors? Is it OK to pay tribute to, say, Cilla Black? Would *Woman's Hour* agree to include a pair of blood-red lips with a fag between them, as a salute to Joanna Lumley's portrayal of Patsy in *Absolutely Fabulous* and to all drunken oversexed fashion editors everywhere? I mean, what is female achievement, precisely, and how worthy does it have to be?

All right, move away from individuals towards issues. You can do equal pay with a pair of scales, but maternity leave could be tricky. And are we going to have an Abortion Act panel, and what shall be an it? And since the Pro-Life

movement is an achievement too, would it go next door for BBC-type balance? Meanwhile, there has been some debate among seamstresses of my acquaintance as to whether control of fertility is best represented by a packet of pills (easy shape) or by the trickier outline of a condom, symbolising men accepting responsibility. So far, the only sexual symbol to have turned up at *Woman's Hour* is a pair of red lips and a stitched message against abuse, but at some stage someone is going to have to take it further. And, believe me, a Feridun is no easy thing to represent in calico.

Especially if a tribute to Mary Whitehouse's life and work ends up alongside. Can we really live harmoniously together on a quilt, all of us?

As for working mothers, suppose we just send in blank cotton squares with Post-it notes stuck on saying "Sorry — owing to liberation, no time to sew"? We should reserve our corner: the best seamstresses are sometimes, how shall I put it, rather traditional thinkers who say unkind things about us harpists. My spies inform me that one of the very first squares to come in bore a conventional, if beautiful, vase of flowers. The programme staff are saying evasively that it clearly represents, um, the enduring beauty of woman's spirit, so that's fine.

And another worry. I asked my husband (admittedly when he was trying to get to sleep) what he thought best symbolised 75 years of women's suffrage. He snarled "They should show a poor man, crucified to a sink". There could be chaps out there sewing bitter-sweet test-tube squares at this very moment. If so, I think they should be included in the quilt. For the sake of getting the whole picture.



Designers follow the footprints in the sand and find their inspiration for spring in Robinson Crusoe

# The castaways of the catwalks



GIANFRANCO FERRE: GOING TO THE JUNGLE VALENTINO: GOING FOR THE MOOD



RIFAT OZBEK: PLAYING WITH CULTURES MAXMARA: TINKERING WITH TRINKETS



WILL somebody please shed some light on a question which has been niggling at me since I saw the spring/summer shows last October? Are re-runs of the children's cult version of *Robinson Crusoe* being shown the world over on cable television? Having sat through shows filled with models wandering up and down the catwalks as though they were sunning themselves on some desert island, wrapped in all manner of castaway costume, I imagined the designers sat inside their salons, blinds drawn, glued to their television screens, turning into the series.

Or maybe it's just that designers realise that the summer months offer the chance for women to loosen up their wardrobes, lighten the load of essential weatherproof layers, and dress with the accent on fantasy, rather than the fundamental.

Whatever the reason, fashion has gone native.

Central to the look are simple, understated shapes. Easy button-through dresses, pinafores, unstructured jackets, wide-legged trousers,



MARTINE SITBON: FRINGE

roomy shirts, and a take on a gentleman's waistcoat, now almost unrecognisable as it skirts the floor or is cut into the tiniest of tops.

The look is focused on a softer palette of natural hues — beige, cream, milk whites,

sand, and a myriad variations of warm earth tones. The colours have a sun-bleached quality about them. Natural fabrics make the look easy to wear. Soft linens, washed cottons, loose-weave voiles, crumpled silks and silky raffia knits mix together, playing texture against texture. This makes them perfect clothes for travelling: their wrinkled appearance allows you to forget the iron when packing. Tawny suedes and leather provide a harder edge.

Some designers are keener than others to show their "eco-friendliness", charging their collections with overt references. Gianfranco Ferre takes his models to the jungle with "rush-matting" skirts, coarse linen jackets, burnished leather bustiers and straw accessories. Classic houses, such as Valentino, rely on the odd touch to connect into the mood — basketwork caps worn with soigné suits.

Rifat Ozbek plays with different cultures, travelling the world, taking snapshots of his surroundings, and weaving them into his collections. His nomad may wear an oversized turban, tied in rough straw by Philip Treacy, but underneath she is the epitome of cool chic in a softly constructed trouser suit. Alternatively, he offers low-cut stretch shift dresses, to be worn over his decorative lace and sequin brassieres.

The natural substitutes for lace are gauzy, open-weave



WHISTLES: WAISTCOAT DRESS LIBERTY, OMNIBUS: AMBER CHIP NECKLACES, BRACELETS AND RING HARRODS: ROUGH STRAW CASTAWAY HAT

fabrics or even raffia, rope and string twisted into naive patterns. Straw-coloured coils and loops resemble corn-circles sewn together they make a waistcoat. Designers as diverse as Krizia in Milan and Red or Dead in London use this unexplained phenomenon as inspiration. Issey Miyake's signature wrinkle pleats give the appearance of living tree bark to a straight-forward shirt dress. This use of surface texture sees routine articles of clothing metamor-

phose into mini works of art. Karl Lagerfeld creates creamy cobweb jackets and dresses for Chloe which appear to hold together by magic. Fluted sleeves end in a tangle of threads, trailing the fingers. He intertwines rough and smooth yarns into a fragile grid, which is then laid over another macramé mesh, cut into an A-line dress.

Beachcomber chic makes the most of seemingly un-sophisticated ideas. Lolita Lempicka fastens elegant jack-

ets with a handful of straw-like ties knotted roughly together. Rough blanket stitches edge lapels or appear to hold together seams (this is mostly just decoration). Summer sarongs are stolen from the holiday wardrobe and are now worn under gently tailored jackets and, as with Giorgio Armani, draped over slim trousers. Floaty scarves can be tied around waists to give this effect.

Organic-inspired accessories add colour and even more

texture. Unpolished amber, wooden beads and pebbles can be layered together in strings or worn individually secured on leather thongs. These are all readily available from astute jewellery designers, who have been scavenging the natural world. The style is easily copied. Shells found on the beach finally find a use. Raffia can be crudely plaited to form bracelets and hair ornaments. Mix these with ethnic trinkets, souvenirs of your travels.

The key element to introduce to your wardrobe should you wish to follow this nature trail, is fringe — whether the hems of trousers unravel, the brim of your straw hat explodes, or the edge of a jacket is tattered and torn. The effect should soften the silhouette, and prove to onlookers that you are at one with the planet ... or, at the very least, that you too have seen the episode where Robinson Crusoe makes a pair of natty trousers from palm leaves.

## Hair is the news

HAIR colour is an emotive subject, as anyone who has experienced the pains of changing from brown to blonde via green will know. The opening of Jo Handford's new salon specialising in colouring must come as a relief. Handford is an expert in her field: she has worked alongside established hair tasters Vidal Sassoon and Daniel Galvin and has also been a consultant colourist for the BBC and Yorkshire Television.

The elegant interior of her Mayfair shop belies the up-to-minute technology needed for accurate colouring — the tinting room is fitted with infrared computerised machines that automatically control colour and perming time, and chopped locks are sucked away electronically, leaving the floor immaculate at all times. Her team of 12, including four specialist tinters, led by herself, and stylists Robert Isaac and Philippe Stabile, work closely with the client. Colour can be subtle or flamboy-

ant. Breakfast, lunch and tea are provided with a menu that is changed daily. Prices range from £90 for a full head tint to £35 for a vegetable colour. The salon is open six days a week, Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5.30pm. Jo Handford, 19 Mount Street, London W1 (071-495 7774).

## Flight fantastic

ALTHOUGH air travel has never been easier or safer, jet lag can still be exhausting. Aromatherapy, as tried and tested by *The Times* fashion team, can be the perfect remedy. Daniele Ryman, a seasoned aromatherapist, has opened a shop ideal for the jet set.

The Jet Lag Shop, in Park Lane Hotel, offers frequent fliers a range of therapies perfect for even the worst symptoms of travel. The most useful item comes in the form of a specifically designed "in-flight comfort kit". This compact pouch comes in different sizes, corresponding to different needs — items include nasal and sinus refreshers, re-hydration gel, eye cooling compresses, mouth-rinses and exercise rubs. Kits are priced from £17 to £75 and are available from The Jet Lag Shop,

Daniele Ryman, Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1. Mail order also available (071-753 6707/8/9).

## Plum centre

PLUM LINE, the shoe shop known for its unusual and fashionable attire, has moved to new and larger premises in Covent Garden. As one of the few remaining independent fashion shoe retailers in London, Plum Line is the largest stockist of Freehand, a collection hot from France. Other up-to-the-minute ranges include Spring Court, Armando Pardini, Luc Berjot and Berkenstock. An interesting interior design feature, in keeping with the merchandise in the shop, is an area of wooden floor artfully covered with a rich plum-coloured hide designed and hand-thonged by Bill Amberg. Plum Line, 55 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-602 2866).

## Supporting act

EMMA THOMPSON, heavily tipped for an Oscar this evening, will be supporting British fashion by wearing a dress by designer Caroline Charles.

## A SPECIAL OFFER: SUSANNA LISLE'S NEW TAPESTRY CATS



These two sumptuous tapestries are the latest in Susanna Lisle's cat series. The Tortoiseshell sits on a foreground of soft pink stripes while the Ginger cat (on the right) is on a mixture of powder blues. The background colours in both are cheerful and light: pale yellows, pinks, apple green, azure, white and cherry red. Her colours throughout are softer than usual with a natural freshness and these tapestries make equally good cushions or pictures. Quick and easy to stitch they are worked in either half-cross or tent stitch on 12 holes to the inch canvas. 100% pure wool from the Appleton tapestry range is used and each design measures 14" x 14". The kits come complete with canvas printed in full colour, wools, needle and stitch instruction leaflet. At £29.95 each they represent excellent value. When ordering use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

FOR QUERIES ABOUT DESPATCH TELEPHONE 0932 770342.  
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## Matthew Parris



Members of Parliament are in no position to lecture the press or anyone else on 'civilised discourse'

A free society, says a recent report, "should not be a society which, in order to exhibit its freedom, dispenses with civilised discourse."

Select committees love to preface their reports with a strutting piety or two. The words I quote provide the fanfare for recommendations on press restraint just published by the national heritage committee. After the fanfare come proposals for another dollop of nanny legislation.

In their preface the MPs declare that their recommendations are rooted in the precept of "self-restraint, or, as the committee prefers to call it, voluntary restraint". The concept of voluntary restraint is a new one to me. "Kindly restrain me" is a request one might, I suppose, encounter among the politest practitioners of sexual bondage, but elsewhere its use is problematic. What can it mean?

Well, the committee's chairman is Gerald Kaufman. What better way to investigate voluntary restraint and put flesh on his theory of "civilised discourse" than to examine Mr Kaufman's own parliamentary record. "Most of us," says the report, "exercise some self-restraint in what we say and write." Just look at the example Mr Kaufman sets us.

February 3 1987 (*Hansard* col 818): "The right hon Member for Henley (Mr Heseltine) is a rare example of a rat trying to jump back onto a sinking ship."

July 23 1985 (col 910): "I say to Conservative racialists..."

February 9 1981 (col 603): "Why does the right hon gentleman (Mr Heseltine) never tell the House the straight truth?"

January 11 1981 (col 889): "If the hon gentleman (Michael Latham) put it down on his own initiative, he is an even bigger creep than I thought he was."

These and other remarks fail to clarify the committee's concept of civilised discourse. Perhaps their phrase "most of us" was meant to allow for the exception of Mr Kaufman? I decided to cast my eye over the utterances of some of the other committee members.

There is Joe Ashton, for example, MP for Bassetlaw. In 1987 Mr Ashton accused a fellow MP of introducing a bill to deter murderers only because he had a marginal seat. In the same year he charged John Major (then a social security minister) of lying about statistics.

Well, the committee does number ten, and "most of us", I suppose, could allow for two exceptions, so I looked further into the record: to the wit and wisdom of John Major (Glas-

gow, Cathart, 1985 has him doubting that Archie Kirkwood and the Social Democrats possess any "last vestiges of a social conscience". He accuses the Scottish secretary, Sir George Younger, of "gross incompetence" (1981), and takes an equally charitable view of Ian Lang who "should get the facts straight and stop perpetuating myths and rumours".

Some of the remarks I quote fall into the category of gross discourtesies, rather than libels. The committee has something to say about uncouth behaviour such as this: "Failure to recognise or sympathise with the plight of news subjects", says the report, can result in treatment which is "unsophisticated or misleading". MPs are talking about journalists here, not themselves.

But other language goes further. Take Mr Kaufman, for example, on Baroness Thatcher: having charged her (February 3 1987) with "bungling inefficiency coupled with arrogant authoritarianism" he goes on to accuse her of "manipulating the Official Secrets Acts for political purposes" — a case, he says, of "using the cloak of national security for witch-hunts".

Smile at the irony: Mr Kaufman is here defending Clive Ponting and Sarah Tiedall, yet under the press regime his committee proposes an editor would use illicitly obtained information at his peril.

Having smiled, observe that the allegation Mr Kaufman makes of the PM — that she is corrupt and incompetent — is almost certainly actionable for libel.

Or would be. Except, of course, that it was made in the Commons Chamber. There, it enjoys "absolute privilege" under our law: nobody, that is, can sue. Few politicians have made more frequent use of absolute privilege than Gerald Kaufman. It is fair to say that he has based much of his political reputation upon violent attacks in extreme language on the honour and good name of other politicians. I can assure you that hardly a week passes in Parliament without a defamatory attack by an MP, in many cases upon a private individual who never sought the political limelight. Some MPs use this privilege apparently careless of the ruin they may cause to lives and careers. Any journalist who behaved in this way would be sued.

No objective enquiry, asked to consider the use to which absolute privilege is put by MPs, could reach any conclusion other than that it is massively abused. The press is of course free to report what is said in the Commons. Should it be? Why does Mr Kaufman's committee not look into this? I think we should be told.

## A votre santé

THE demise of the Socialist government in France has not only brought jubilation to the Chirac and Giscard d'Estaing households. French alcohol manufacturers are hoping that a right-wing administration will relax the hated Loi Evin.

The Evin law, named after a former health minister, came into force at the beginning of January and restricts the advertising of cigarettes and alcohol in some pernicious ways. So far, lobbying by alcohol advertisers and manufacturers has met with a blank. Lionel Stanbrook of the Advertising Association here in Britain is one of many perplexed by the law's small print. "It is very odd, for example, that you cannot advertise alcohol on radio on Wednesdays. The supposed reasoning behind this is that children are allowed home early from schools on Wednesdays and they might be corrupted."

But the aspect which causes him to snort with derision is a decree, not yet enacted, which

forbids alcohol manufacturers to advertise "outside their zone of production". This is being taken to mean that Champagne producers cannot advertise outside Champagne. It has already caused the resignation of Jean-Pierre Soisson, the agriculture minister.

Whether any legislation can reduce the French capacity for drink is to be doubted. The writer Quentin Crewe, who last year moved back to London after 10 years in Haut Provence, says: "A lot of people stop off at a café for a brandy on their way to work. Even children drink wine." The government must remember, he says, that the French are "good at rebelling".

They may have no need. Sir Ewen Ferguson, French ambassador from 1987 to 1992, expects the new government to be more sympathetic. "I would be surprised if there were not some way round it."

Considering the job comes with a chain of office, a mace bearer, a chauffeur-driven car

Last Thursday the prime minister unveiled the plaque to Anthony Trollope in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey. It was a pleasant and very English occasion. As president of the Trollope Society I had to give a brief address, in which I thanked John Major for his consistent support, and the Dean of Westminster for the decision that Trollope deserved a place there. Before the dedication of the memorial, we attended Choral Evensong: out of regard for what Trollope would have heard in the 19th century, the two lessons were taken from the Authorised Version of the Bible. Would it be always so?

The occasion, with its readings from Trollope's Barchester novels, was characterised by a particular kind of religious tranquillity which is one of the graces of the Church of England. In recent years the Church of England has been discussed largely in terms of its disputes. There have been disagreements with the government about social policy, disputes about definitions of matters of faith, the angry division over the ordination of women. Even in Trollope's novels the Church of England was similarly divided between high and low church, between radicals and conservatives. Barchester Cathedral was indeed much affected by the national press, and particularly by a campaign in the pseudonymous *Times*.

Yet the memory that is left by Trollope's Church of England is one of peace, and that was also the memory left by the abbey service. The congregation was at peace with itself: indeed a Trollopean magic seemed to have drawn together some of the most likeable people in London. During the dedication I found myself standing next to John Major. I have criticised him before and shall criticise him again. I found myself reflecting that he was the first Conservative prime minister I had

criticised from a conservative rather than a radical point of view, and also the first prime minister to be younger than me. Age and the ERM have at last turned me into a High Tory. Yet, whatever one thinks of his policies or his administration, the inherent English decency of the prime minister does shine through. Trollope would have understood him: he is a prime minister of Trollopean temperament, both in his self-doubt and in his self-certainties. He does not know whether he is a great man, but he does know that he is an honest one.

This Anglican peace is much more than a nostalgic recollection of the calm of the 19th-century cathedral close. One must never forget that the Anglican community is a church, that it is a body organised to preach the Christian gospel, a gospel opposed to the false assumptions of the world. Humility and peace are vital parts of the Christian message, and over the centuries they have impregnated the character of the Church of England.

Indeed they appear even in its negative image. The Church of England is often criticised for being too meek, for failing in its prophetic role because it is not aggressive enough in denouncing evil or demanding justice. Yet even the sitcom vicar, as he was played by Derek Nimmo, is a man of peace and humility, if an ineffective one. Septimus Harding, the saintly clergyman in Trollope's *The Warden*, is

driven out of his benefice by public controversy and his own conscience: he is not tough enough to dominate his surroundings, but he is a consolation to all who depend upon him.

The peace of the Church of England is not merely a withdrawal from harsher reality; it reflects the shaping power of prayer: it has about it the peace of God. When the Archbishop of Canterbury is criticised because he is "only" a good man, we

William Rees-Mogg

should reflect that his qualities of personal humility and faith are not commonplace. They are rare in the modern world, and were rare in all previous periods of history.

This aspect of the Anglican temperament and tradition has had a civilising effect on the English people, and, as it has weakened, the English people have become less civilised. All effective moral teaching is by example. The example of the Anglican Church has been one of sympathy for others expressed partly through consideration and courtesy. The Church of England has sometimes been criticised for too great a concern with external manners, but external man-

ners are a protection to society. They play a part in the social conditioning which prevents violence.

This modern world is certainly not an Anglican one, but then the world has never been Christian. Television does not have an Anglican temperament, far less so than radio. Much of BBC Radio 4, or Classic FM, is Anglican in tone though not in specific material. The broadsheet press, all of it, shows a strong Anglican cultural influence, but there is no love for tranquillity in the tabloids. *Private Eye* is Anglicanism gone sour. Hollywood and popular music, as Michael Medved has observed, are largely an attack on all religious values. Even cricket has Anglicans in the commentary box, but modern pagans on the field.

I have never been a member of the Church of England, but I wish that the English, in their indifference to what the Anglican tradition has to offer, realised what they are losing. It is, after all, the church which has done most to shape the English culture, with all its virtues and confusions. It is the cultural form in which Christianity is most accessible to many English people. How can the English go to Lord's and Covent Garden and never step inside Canterbury Cathedral?

I do not understand why so many people whose whole character formation is Anglican pay so little attention to what the church offers. For me the pleasure of going to a concert is not to

analyse the music or the performance, which in any case I am not competent to do. I go because certain concerts put me in a frame of mind which is both peaceful and happy: the music of Haydn, which he usually signed with a cross in the original manuscript, is unfailingly productive of that mood. Haydn takes one into a world of a higher order.

The services of the Church of England have the same character, but more so, because they are Christian worship. Admittedly one cannot always be at Choral Evensong in Westminster Abbey, but it is easy to find a local Anglican church where services are conducted with reverence and good order, or with more effusiveness if that is what one's temperament chooses.

It is even stranger that so many old English people do not go to their church. The virtues of the Church of England are particularly those which appeal to old age. For the young the bustle and excitement of the world are very attractive; for the old, peace and stability are usually preferable. The music of youth may be noisy and discordant; the music of age should be calm and harmonious. It is the same with religion. Old people have to come to terms with death. They have specific spiritual needs which are different from those of early life, needs which an old and tranquil church is well-qualified to fill.

As a Catholic, I find my communion gives me the main sea of Christianity, the authority of the universal church. But many English people may find it easier to believe in a Christianity wearing English clothes, adapted to our island's historic culture. What is sad is that so few of the English, even of that civilised group who read Trollope's novels, now find the peace and joy which they obtain from literature in the church, which that literature so sympathetically portrays.

People should know what they are giving up in their retreat from the Anglican tradition

## English decency lost by default

Tory optimism can be taken too far, writes Peter Riddell

The pendulum of fashionable political opinion always swings too far. A few weeks ago, everything was gloom — the economy, the Maastricht Bill: the whole nation was said to be in the grip of a moral malaise. Now, the word, at least among Tories at Westminster, if not in the country, is that the winter storms are over and a calmer period is in prospect. Just as the earlier pessimism was overdone, so the current optimism is exaggerated. The government's troubles are by no means yet over. Life after Maastricht will not be simple or painless.

Last week certainly produced overdue relief for ministers. The belated tactical success of the Tory whips in forcing an overnight sitting on the Maastricht Bill has brought the end of the committee stage in sight, probably by the end of April. Michael Heseltine's statement may not have secured the long-term future of the threatened jobs of miners, but it should have defused the immediate political row, despite the rumblings of Winston Churchill and a few other Tory MPs. Almost every day there is fresh evidence that economic recovery is gathering momentum.

The optimistic ministerial argument goes like this: "We have just got through the most dreadful six months since 1979 and have held together. Our tribal instincts for survival have just about prevailed. Passage of the Maastricht Bill will remove the biggest constraint on John Major's freedom of manoeuvre, since no other issue is so divisive. A growing economy will also improve our standing in the polls." I have heard this view in recent days from cabinet ministers of all shades of Euro-opinion.

In the very short-term, they may be right. Business confidence appears to be picking up and, once the Maa-

tricht Bill is out of the way, some of the bitterness of the winter among Tory MPs may decline.

Even in the immediate future that optimism needs to be qualified. Internal Tory doubts could easily resurface following poor Tory results in the county elections on May 6 and the loss of the Newbury by-election. A further deterioration in the German and related economies could dampen recovery hopes here, and unemployment is likely to rise for some time. On the Maastricht Bill, the government faces defeat on amendment 27 about the social chapter on workers' rights: according to the attorney-general, in a disputed opinion, this would not affect ratification. The deputy Speaker still has to rule on other amendments supporting British involvement in the social chapter which might stop the government

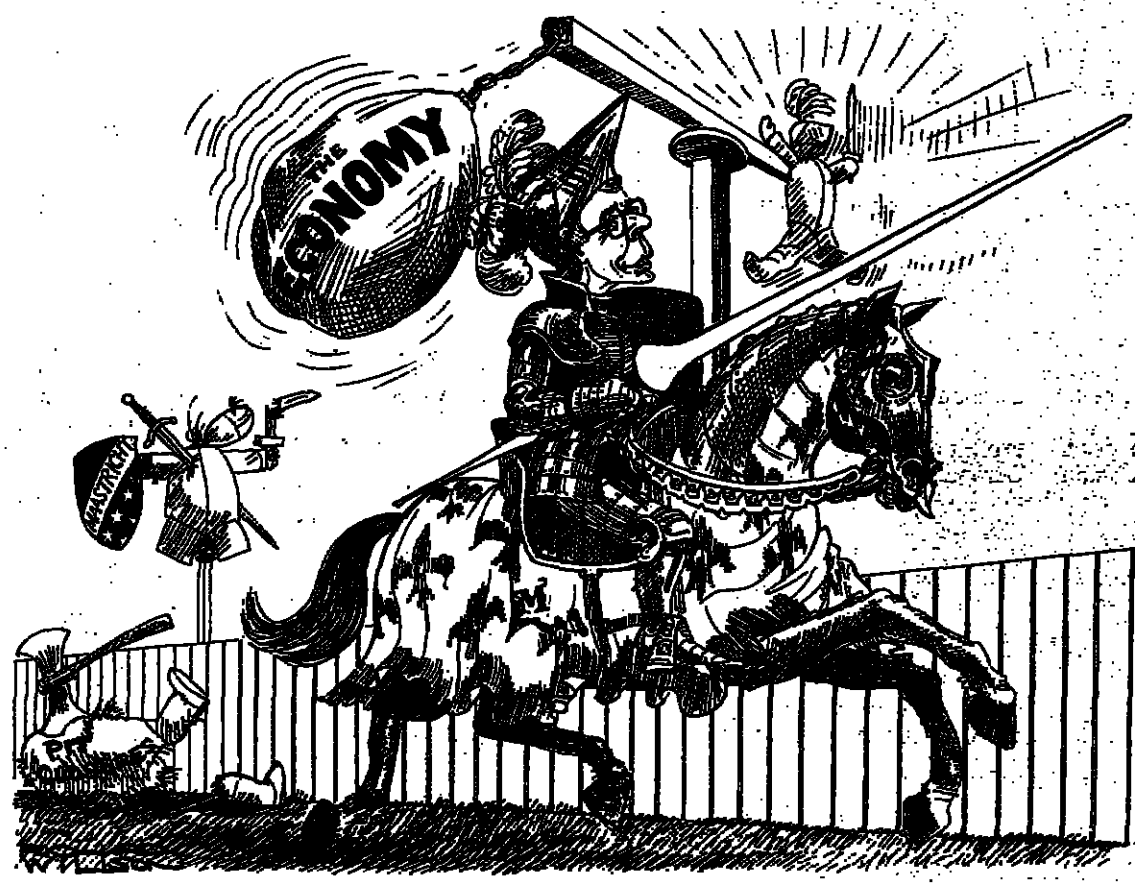
from ratifying. The Danes could again vote no on May 18, which would halt British proceedings.

The more significant doubts are longer-term. Tory optimism believes that ratification of Maastricht can be used as an opportunity to advance a positive European agenda, which unites the Tory party. Douglas Hurd argued in his Banbury speech five weeks ago that the negotiations over Maastricht were a mainly defensive campaign in response to the ideas of others. But, he claimed, we improved on the status quo not only by rejecting a centralised super-state, but also by adopting the principle of subsidiarity and creating closer co-operation between national governments on foreign and home affairs policy. Now,

however, he believes Britain can take the initiative within the EC ahead of the inter-governmental conference in 1996.

Mr Hurd's suggested agenda of a decentralised, wider, free-trading, outward-looking and more accountable Community should receive wide backing within the Tory party, at least at the level of general aspiration. The idea was, for example, echoed on Friday by Michael Howard, a prominent Euro-sceptic. But party divisions may resurface once the agenda becomes more specific and the government has to negotiate, possibly just ahead of a British election, with EC leaders who do not share this decentralist vision. The need to compromise could impose strains like those associated with Maastricht.

A further complication is the exchange-rate mechanism. Its



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

present troubles are obvious, and nobody in the cabinet wants to rock the boat by even talking about re-entry, part of the tacit compromise producing cabinet unity over Maastricht. That could change if the ERM survives and French and German leaders press ahead towards a single currency.

The medium-term economic outlook is also far from rosy. The Budget Red Book underlined the tight constraints ahead of the next election. Projected growth rates up to 1997 were revised downwards to an average of barely 2.5 per cent a year. Unemployment will remain high and public borrowing will decline only slowly.

In retrospect, the deferred tax increases announced in the Budget look only a first instalment. Together with existing public spending plans, they indicate a much smaller fiscal squeeze than in the 1981 Budget or than President Bill Clinton has proposed in America. Another package of tax increases or cuts in spending plans will be necessary. The autumn is therefore likely to be dominated by stories about cutbacks in social security and other budgets, hardly a recipe for popularity.

Ahead of the spending round, the Treasury may be playing its old game of being deliberately cautious, especially about exports after the devaluation. Faster growth could transform borrowing prospects. The Red Book assessment may anyway not be politically sustainable. Modest growth would produce pressure for government action, even at the risk of pushing inflation above its target rate. That, in turn, could reopen the debate about re-entering the ERM, although this would split the cabinet. As John Major celebrates his 50th birthday today, he can toast his government's survival after its dire winter. But he has not escaped from the Thatcher inheritance. Remedying the economic policy mistakes of the late 1980s and the pre-election period require not an instant hang-over cure but painful long-term treatment. The deep Tory tensions over Europe will also not disappear when Maastricht is ratified. Life with a Commons majority of 20 or less will continue to be bumpy.

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They may have no need. Sir Ewen Ferguson, French ambassador from 1987 to 1992, expects the new government to be more sympathetic. "I would be surprised if there were not some way round it."

Considering the job comes with a chain of office, a mace bearer, a chauffeur-driven car

and an oak-panelled office, you might think there would be hundreds who wanted to be mayor of Wandsworth. But the swearing-in ceremony is little more than a month away and the ruling Tory group has still not found anyone to take on the unpaid task. The problem is that, now the Tories have been in power for 14 years, many of the senior councillors have already been mayor and don't fancy it again. Even an appeal to Jean Lucas, the Tory agent who "discovered" John Major, has failed to provide a candidate. A lucky dip cannot be far off.

## Catholic comics

ON HOLY Thursday the Pope will deliver his annual message to priests in which he will encourage them to give thanks for the new Catechism, published last November, which adds tax evasion and drunken driving to the old catalogue of sins. He may be preaching to the unconverted.

A spoof press release is doing the rounds among the Catholic hierarchy in Britain, which gushes: "No more confusion about doctrines: you



## DIARY

have to believe them all! No more divisive voices in the church: sit down and shut up!" "Order now," it promises, "and get a free New Testament obfuscator... the handy reference work that allows you to turn all the sayings of Jesus into rules and regulations — right in your own home!"



John Major can expect 50th birthday greetings from Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's premier, whom he receives today, but he should not hold out too much hope for a card from Lord Tebbit, who celebrates his 62nd birthday today. Tebbit, says an aide, "does not normally send a card to John Major and I do not think he is expecting to receive one."

## We have lift-off

IT MAY have polled only 1 per cent of the vote in the French election, and achieved nothing in Britain despite fielding 300 candidates last April, but the Natural Law party is far from despondent. It is celebrating the election of its first MP — in Croatia, Josip Anon Rupnik has won a seat in the regional assembly of Istria, in western Croatia, with

61 per cent of votes cast. The party's spiritual leader, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the inspiration behind the founding of the party in 35 countries, is delighted. "It is a great joy to congratulate the people of Istria for their wise decision to adopt the programmes of the Natural Law party proposed by Mr Rupnik and thereby allow the cosmic administrator to work for them."

## Moan watch

WITH council tax bills now plopping through letter boxes, the government is keeping a close eye on how its latest variation on the rates is going down with voters.

None more so than Michael Howard, who as an environment minister experienced the horror of poll tax first hand. Now environment secretary, Howard has given instructions that a histogram be displayed in his office measuring the numbers of complaints each week. The omens so far are encouraging — council tax means average 400 a week compared with 4,000 a week at this stage in the community charge. But wait until that Band G pride wears off.



Oscar one-two: Thompson, left, and her mother, Law



## Throw Momma from the train

WITH Kenneth Branagh deep in *Hamlet* at Stratford, Emma Thompson, widely tipped for best actress at tonight's Oscars, has been husband-less in Los Angeles. At Saturday's Independent Spirit Awards, the trendy ceremony for independent films, she was accompanied by her mother, the actress Phyllida Law. The unlikely pairing has drawn the attention of Hollywood fashion guru, Thompson, who complained in her acceptance speech for the Golden Globe

award earlier this year that "we are not used to this sort of thing in England — I've borrowed everything I'm standing up in", is taking no chances of being upstaged. On Saturday she was dressed in pillar-box red. Tonight she will be zipping herself into a number by Caroline Charles. She will be given a run for her money. Law will wear a dress designed by Stephanie Collic and Susan Coates. A touch cheeky: Collic and Coates are designers for Renaissance. Branagh's theatre company.





## OLD POWER OF PETITION

A Maastricht referendum would empower the disenfranchised

Today *The Times* hopes to play its part in a campaign to enhance participatory democracy. For the first time that clerks to the House of Commons can recall, a petition is being disseminated by newspapers in order to reach the widest possible audience. It calls for the holding of a referendum on the Maastricht treaty, a demand that politicians are reluctant to grant despite overwhelming support for it in the country.

With Baroness Thatcher, the Duke of Devonshire, and Baron Stoddart of Swindon as patrons, the Maastricht referendum campaign, "MarC", invites voters to speak up for their right to determine in a democratic vote whether or not they wish the constitutional changes of the Maastricht treaty to be made, and to sign up other signatories from the highways and byways. In a Freudian misprint it advises that only those on an electoral "role" should sign.

The British people entrust their politicians with enormous power. A simple majority of one in the House of Commons is enough to ensure that any law is passed. Not since Queen Anne has a monarch withheld royal assent to a bill. The House of Lords can temporarily amend a bill but ultimately it can do no more than delay. Parliament's decisions cannot be challenged in court. The Commons wields a degree of power unhindered by checks and balances that is almost unparalleled among Western democracies.

Defenders of the British constitution argue that it works perfectly well. But it works only while there is a measure of trust between politicians and public, a confidence that MPs will not abuse their absolute sovereignty. Many people now believe that Parliament is not morally justified in passing the major constitutional change that the acceptance of the Maastricht treaty entails without referring back to the electorate. In the absence of any constitutional

or legal challenges to the Commons, moral persuasion is all that is left. The public has already made clear in opinion polls that it badly wants a referendum. The latest MORI poll finds 73 per cent in favour, with only 16 per cent against. This is not just a symptom of dissatisfaction with the government: 68 per cent of Conservative supporters want a vote. Ever since last June, when Denmark's voters were allowed to express their view, British supporters of a referendum have outnumbered opponents by four to one.

Nor is this upswell of public opinion a reaction against the treaty itself. It is too easy for politicians to write off those who call for a referendum as anti-European cranks. MORI's figures over the past nine months show opinion roughly divided for and against the treaty. What is striking is the large number of "don't knows": between a third and a half of those answering. These people are open to debate, and a referendum campaign would be the ideal forum for testing the arguments of both sides.

It is not enough for MPs to argue that the public had a chance to vote on Maastricht at the last general election. All three political parties were committed to ratification, effectively disenfranchising those voters who disapproved of the treaty. The government's success last week in winning closure motions shows that the three front benches are still prepared to co-operate.

Petitions were at their most popular in the last century. It is no accident that their ascendancy coincided with a period when the limited franchise ensured that many people lacked a political voice. There are close parallels with today's charade of Parliament's treatment of the Maastricht treaty. People have been disenfranchised and they are not happy about it. This petition marks their best chance of expressing that irritation to their political masters.

## NEW FRENCH OPTIONS

Now comes a rare opportunity to open up Fortress Europe

Whatever the final outcome of the jockeying for power that will follow yesterday's French election, it will present a critical challenge, as well as a rare opportunity, for political leaders and diplomats in London, Washington and Bonn. The challenge will be to find a way of reconciling the inward-looking, Luddite and anti-American vision of Europe propounded by all of the main French parties, with Europe's clear need to strengthen the North Atlantic alliance, modernise its economy and open itself up to freer trade with the rest of the world. The opportunity for Britain and America will be to prise apart the Franco-German alliance that has come to dominate Europe, if the new leaders in Paris prove true to their disturbing pre-election form.

French politicians have made potentially incompatible promises, which can be reconciled only if Germany offers France a measure of support that verges on self-sacrifice. France's new leaders have all promised to strengthen the Franco-German alliance. Yet they have also vied in the intensity of their anti-American rhetoric, ignoring the transatlantic bond on which German policy has been based.

In economics, the potential contradictions between German and French interests are even more pronounced, and this is where an unprecedented opportunity to influence French policy arises. The French right-wing parties have promised to preserve at all costs the franc fort policy that purports to tie the French currency irrevocably to the German mark. This policy depends entirely on the German government's publicly expressed willingness to stake unlimited amounts of German money on the franc's defence. Until recently, this commitment has been politically inviolable because of the close personal

relationship between Helmut Kohl and François Mitterrand. But the election of a new French government offers the German chancellor a chance to review this commitment, to take account of a strong anti-German bias in French policy on trade.

The RPR and UDF have both been explicit and fervent in their rejection of the European-American agricultural agreement, which has been recognised on both sides of the Atlantic as the key to the conclusion of the Uruguay Gatt trade round. If the new French government makes good on pre-election promises to veto the Blair House agricultural agreement, President Clinton's administration will face enormous domestic pressure to retreat from America's traditional commitment to free trade. While France might consider itself a gainer from any global change that produced a more inward-looking protectionist Europe, the biggest loser from any such development would be Germany.

It may be that French politicians will form a pragmatic government eager to do business co-operatively on trade, defence and the future of Europe. But now that French politicians have lost their pre-election excuse of playing to the populist gallery, Britain and America must urgently test their true intentions.

If France continues to block a Gatt trade deal and to push Europe towards an introverted obsession with self-reliance, there must now be a clear response. John Major and Bill Clinton must turn to Helmut Kohl and ask him two clear questions. Are you with France on the creation of a protectionist and militarily self-reliant Fortress Europe? If not, when will you start to put pressure on the French government by withdrawing your support for the franc?

## THE GLOAT RACE

Cambridge can win the strange Boat Race, once every 20 years

So the tide turned. The underdogs triumphed. Bookmakers, experts and the opposition were confounded, and against the odds Cambridge won the 139th Boat Race on Saturday, capturing the inexplicable ardour of a large part of the nation with no interest in the older universities apart from twenty minutes a year, and creating irrational triumph and despair among the partisans, as though a Nobel prize or at any rate a First by acclamation were at stake.

This national festival is more of a tribal rite than a sport. Rowing in eights, though ergonomically efficient, is an absurd form of locomotion. As contest in an esoteric and minority sport, the Boat Race is usually a procession as unexciting as Poth sticks, as it was this year, with the winners evident to the most ignorant observer from Hammersmith Bridge at the latest. The course, with its huge loops and unpredictable tides baffling across wind and current and flossam, is manifestly unfair and unsuitable for rowing, with finesse. The performers are no longer ingenuous native undergraduates, but supercharged, international, professional rowing machines. Only seven of this year's oarsmen were under the age of 23, and eight nations were represented in the boats. In the Oxford crew there was a 27-year-old German doing a post-graduate course in Japanese politics, who had already rowed for his country and Harvard University, but had never even seen a Boat Race.

The obituaries and analysts have given

their learned explanations for the turn-up for the book. Cambridge psyched themselves up with a blow-up and hateful mugshot of the inoffensive Oxford president, and beelied themselves up with the jujitsu substance of Ergomax, a synthetic food said to contain muscle-building creatine. Their big clever blades worked without a splash, and their decision to stay away from the Tideway until the last week gave them a longer period of bonding away from the roar of publicity. Oxford had shown vulnerable indecision about crew and oars and cox.

On the day, the Cambridge boat was more than the sum of its nine members, and Oxford less. It leapt like a salmon through the turbid water, showing the powerful magic of rowing in a shell that weighs less than a single one of its oarsmen, while Oxford floundered. The Oxford president and golden Olympic champion spoke generously in defeat: "They put right a lot of mistakes they have made in the past, and they rowed outstandingly well."

The Boat Race dramatises a peculiarly English archetype of heroic and meaningless conflict. Cambridge have had little to cheer about for the past 18 years, except for having dominated the Cabinet with their Cambridge mafia — if that is really something to boast about. Their victory this year is gratifying to the English love of eccentricity. Provided, say Oxford fans of the tribal rite, that it is understood that next year the race reverts to its natural order.

## Yeltsin burden of Soviet inheritance

From Dr Chris Doyle

Sir, Mr Frank Allaun (letter, March 26) claims that to impose Thatcherite capitalism on the Russians "will be at a terrible cost". The costs of transforming the Russian economy have been aggravated by groups within the Parliament and at the Central Bank who have attempted to undermine Mr Yeltsin's programme.

In a situation where authority is dispersed it is not surprising that the reforms are failing. At least Mr Yeltsin is supporting initiatives to enable policies to be effectively implemented and hence increasing their chances of success.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS DOYLE,  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Applied Economics,  
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge,  
March 26.

From Deacon Basil Alexandrovich Yakimov

Sir, Mr Allaun defends a parliament the members of which were not elected by the people of Russia. Mr Yeltsin may not be perfect, but for these difficult times in Russia, at least, he can be regarded as an elected president.

Russia will find its own way, all things being equal and given a breathing space from its inheritance from the USSR. However, it was the West which bankrolled the old USSR with wheat credits, etc. and had a working relationship with such murderers as Stalin. To this day it treats Russia as a poor cousin emerging from the backwoods of history.

The people of Russia have suffered for a long time. Hopefully this new suffering will be very short term.

Yours faithfully,  
BASIL YAKIMOV,  
4 Shirley Avenue,  
Chesham, Surrey,  
March 26.

From Dr D. G. Guild

Sir, It is not Yeltsin who is causing inflation, as Mr Allaun alleges — or not primarily Yeltsin.

The Central Bank is controlled by Congress, who are keeping much of the old system going by printing money. Moreover, as representatives of the old *nomenklatura*, they care little for the needs of the ordinary people.

No, what interests them is what in the US Congress would be called " pork".

Yours faithfully,  
D. G. GUILD,  
53 Polgare Road, Edinburgh,  
March 26.

## A courageous Russian

From Lord Mayhew

Sir, Many veterans of the Cold War, myself included, will have been saddened by your obituarist's account (March 22) of Alexei Adzhubet's downfall and death. Like his father-in-law, Khrushchev, he was loyal to the Soviet Union but understood and rejected the pretensions of Soviet propaganda, which he sometimes attacked in public with considerable courage.

It once suggested to him, after a confrontational East-West conference in England in the early 1960s, that the proceedings would have been more interesting if the delegates had been required to change sides and present their opponents' case.

He was delighted by this idea, and launched promptly into a long, well-informed and withering attack on Soviet foreign policy. He deserves to be remembered with respect, and some gratitude, in the West.

Yours etc,  
MAYHEW,  
House of Lords,  
March 22.

## Budget secrecy

From Sir Anthony Kershaw

Sir, Miss Sally Rich (letter, March 23) wants to know why the Chancellor's box has the hinges and the handle on the same side.

It is for security. The box springs open unless locked with a key. When carried by the handle, the opening side is underneath. If it were not locked securely the Chancellor's speech would fall out onto the pavement. The world would know about the speech some 10 minutes too early, a prospect almost too ghastly to contemplate.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ANTHONY KERSHAW,  
West Bar, Didmorton, Avon.

## Teaching dispute

From the General Secretary of the NAS/UWT

Sir, I deeply regret the intemperate terms in which you attack the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (leading article, March 13), as if we were merely concerned "to embarrass John Patten".

You ignore the overwhelming view of people in the education service, including the independent sector, that the burden of work imposed by the government's bureaucratic system of testing and assessment is not only

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Parents and children in the courts

From Mr Neville Goldrein

Sir, The Director of the Prison Reform Trust (letter, March 25) quite rightly wishes to avoid the "prodigal use of custody for petty offenders", but the pendulum should be as near as possible vertical and not be allowed to swing violently to the other side.

In my experience over some ten years as a deputy circuit judge in the crown courts there was no "prodigal" use of custodial sentencing for petty offenders; every other possible avenue was always tried before the ultimate sanction was used.

Nor does the new Criminal Justice Act adequately protect the public from violent or sex offences, particularly when dealing with juveniles. A 13-year-old cannot commit rape even if he has raped (so the law says) and so can only be punished for indecent assault, which does not allow for a custodial sentence. Imprisonment is in any case something of a legal fiction, as the sentence pronounced by the court is in reality dramatically less than it says.

The judge or magistrates are best equipped, within guidelines but not binding rules, to judge the issue of penalty. The Court of Appeal is always there as a back-stop.

Yours faithfully,  
NEVILLE GOLDBREIN,  
Torre,  
St Andrew's Road,  
Blundellsands, Merseyside,  
March 25.

## English Heritage plans

From Mr John Anstey

Sir, Contrary to Jennifer Page's suggestion (letter, March 26), no conservationists are waging "a malicious and personal campaign" against Jocelyn Stevens. Conservationists are trying to ensure that the issues set out in "Managing England's Heritage" are discussed by more than those who wrote the paper.

When I and three other members of this committee attended English Heritage's offices eight weeks ago, at Jocelyn Stevens's invitation, we were treated with courtesy such as none of us had ever witnessed in our public and professional lives. When various newspapers heard about it they unfortunately deemed Mr Stevens's behaviour more worthy of interest than the issues which we had tried to discuss, and with which Mr Stevens had "voluntarily refused to involve himself."

There is nothing we would like more than debate on these matters with Mr Stevens and his officials. Alas, since discussion seems impossible with Mr Stevens at the helm, perhaps the only solution is to see him replaced, so that the issues can be fully and properly discussed.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ANSTEY,  
Committee for the Future of London's Architectural Heritage,  
31 Newbury Street,  
St Bartholomew's, EC1,  
March 26.

## Teenagers' jobs

From the Senior Director of Barnardo's and the Director of Youthaid

Sir, The Employment Department's dismissive response to our report on the growing problems of unemployment and hardship amongst 16 and 17-year-olds shows the government at its most cynically defensive (report, March 23).

Far from confusing opinion with information, our estimate that 124,700 16 and 17-year-olds were unemployed in October 1992 is below the Employment Department's own figure of 139,000 for autumn 1992 from the labour force survey released at the end of last week.

It is high time the government stopped quibbling about figures, and

From Mr Roger Ede

Sir, Removing the right to silence and automatically admitting evidence of previous convictions will not necessarily assist in the prosecution of parents whose child has suffered serious injuries while in their care when both parents refuse to explain the injuries ("Silence right 'frees violent parents'", report, March 18).

Such parents may refuse to answer police questions, even if they are no longer entitled to remain silent. It is unlikely that the mere fact of their having refused to give an explanation for the child's injuries or that one or other of them has a previous conviction for a similar offence would, of itself, be sufficient evidence of their guilt.

There would have to be other evidence against them, and that is what has been lacking in recent notorious cases.

The right of the suspect to remain silent is the only defence against coercive questioning by police officers and the Law Society has told the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice that this right must be retained for the protection of the innocent.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER EDE,  
(Secretary, Criminal Law Committee),  
Legal Practice Directorate,  
The Law Society,  
50 Chancery Lane, WC2,  
March 19.

From Mr George J. Levy

Sir, Miss Jennifer Page, in her justifiable defence of English Heritage, rightly deplores the "malicious and personal campaign" being carried out by its chairman, Mr Jocelyn Stevens.

His commitment, for instance, to the London region was confirmed at a recent meeting with the London Historic House Museums Group, when he categorically said that Kenwood, Marble Hill, Rangers House and Chiswick House constituted a "showcase for London" and would never be hived off.

He has recently followed this up by authorising English Heritage to purchase for the Iveagh Bequest, under a private arrangement with the owner and with substantial assistance from the London Historic House Museums Trust, an important painting by Boucher, *Le Pêcheur*. This is a companion to Boucher's *Flower Gatherers*, a painting acquired by Lord Iveagh in 1887 which forms part of his bequest to the nation.

This should surely help reinforce public confidence both in English Heritage and in the government's policy of public and private funding of the arts.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE J. LEVY,  
(Chairman, Friends of the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood),  
Flat 4,  
6 Aldford Street, W1,  
March 26.

focused instead on the real problems faced by young people.

At a time of rising unemployment and public concern about disaffection amongst young people, government, employers and voluntary organisations should work together to ensure that every school leaver has the opportunity to attend high-quality vocational training, leading to a recognised qualification and a job.

Young people deserve nothing less, and we shall all be the losers if we do not rise to this challenge.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER SINGLETON,  
Senior Director, Barnardo's,  
LUCY BALL,  
Director, Youthaid,  
Barnardo's,  
Tanners Lane,  
Barkingside, Ilford, Essex,  
March 15.

on the least well-off, while it is no more than a social inconvenience for those able to afford a chauffeur or taxi.

If the home secretary were to examine the social consequences of disqualification in rural areas, he might become concerned that, however serious the crime of drinking and driving may be considered, the punishment does not necessarily fit the crime for those in our society who are wholly dependent on their own vehicle for work and the means to support their families.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER TOOTAL,  
Ardleigh,  
Nr Colchester, Essex,  
March 15.

## Little parcels

From Judge Martin Stephens, QC

Sir, In a recent appreciation of a circuit judge, your obituarist observed that he "was a small man but he enjoyed a large circle of friends".

In a fascinating piece on the late Helen Hayes, another obituarist (I assume) wrote "In spite of her tiny frame, she had a massive talent".

Sir, you were prepared to tolerate these outrageously heightist remarks in this age of political correctness?

Yours faithfully  
(5ft 6in in his stockinged feet),  
MARTIN STEPHENS,  
The Red House,  
87 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff,  
March 23.

## Cost, not quality, the test at BBC

From Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside (Labour)

Sir, The recent controversy surrounding John Birt's salary and tax arrangements with the BBC has obscured a much more fundamental issue arising out of the introduction of the system known as "producer choice" into BBC programming from April 1.

Producer choice will oblige programme-makers to buy in all their services and resources at the most cost-effective price, either from within the corporation or on the open market. Preparations for the system have already had a dramatic effect on the way the BBC operates.

Broadcasters bedevils the BBC, as it does many other large organisations, public and private. Steps needed to be taken to devolve and decentralise decision-making and to ensure that there were adequate cost centres to monitor exactly where our money was going.

Producer choice, however, is a euphemism. Far from putting power into the hands of producers, it will reduce the number of programmes provided directly by the BBC, moving towards a position in which many fear that the BBC will end up as a scheduler of programmes, putting cost rather than quality at the top of its agenda.

Changes already introduced have created uncertainty and insecurity and have resulted in accountants taking over from broadcasters. From what I gather, no one viewing *Eldorado* or *A Year in Provence* could claim that standards are improving, compared, for instance, with excellent programmes produced in the late 70s, such as Vera Brittain's *Testament of Youth* (repeated recently).

I do not consider from this evidence that what the public is being offered on television, and regrettably recently on radio too, is better than it was ten years ago. I should be surprised if there were not many others who would agree with me.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BLUNKETT,  
House of Commons,  
March 26.

## Wages councils

From the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress and others

Sir, On March 30 the House of Lords will consider the clause of the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Bill which abolishes wages councils.

We wish to express our concern that, on this occasion, unlike previous attempts at abolition of these councils, there has been no enquiry into or consultation about the workings and effectiveness of these councils. Nor has there been any independent research to substantiate the government's claim that they restrain employment.

Indeed, research has shown that there is no evidence of an increase in employment from the decline in effectiveness of wages councils, and that some smaller companies find them helpful in setting pay rates.

We are also concerned that removing minimum wage protection from some 2.5 million of the lowest-paid workers will have a disproportionate effect on groups over-represented among low-paid workers — for example, women, ethnic minorities and disabled people.

Many people currently covered by wages councils will be forced to accept pay cuts, and more people may claim social security benefits as they face a choice between low-paid work and benefits. The pay gap between men and women is likely to widen.

The wages council system was established in 1909, and its scope has not been comprehensively revised since then. However, this is not a basis for abolition, but rather for a full independent enquiry. We urge the government to rethink its decision.

Yours etc,  
NORMAN WILLIS,  
General Secretary,  
Trades Union Congress,  
ANN ABRAHAM (National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux),  
FRAN BENNETT  
(Child Poverty Action Group),  
SHELAGH DRYLOCK (Fawcett Society),  
PAUL GOGGINS  
(Church Action on Poverty),  
SUE IVERSON (Pay Equity Project),  
BERT MASSIE (Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation),  
GAY MOON  
(London Wages Rights Campaign),  
CHRIS POND (Low Pay Unit),  
Congress House,  
Great Russell Street, WC1,  
March 25.







## OBITUARIES

## SIR MICHAEL McNAIR-WILSON

Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Walthamstow East, 1969-74, and Newbury, 1974-82, died yesterday, aged 62. He was born on October 12, 1930.

MICHAEL McNair-Wilson was the first MP to be treated on a kidney dialysis machine and the first one to have a kidney transplant. These events, in 1984, transformed him from a mild though critical friend of the National Health Service to possibly its most enthusiastic supporter on the Conservative benches. He became president of the National Federation of Kidney Patients and diverted the energies he had previously devoted to skiing, riding and sailing into helping his fellow patients.

His health was the main reason for his decision before the 1992 general election not to fight the Newbury seat which he had held for the previous 22 years. With his death, Newbury has lost its previous MP and its sitting MP in the course of a few weeks, his successor, Judith Chaplin, having died on February 19.

Although a right-winger in some matters, McNair-Wilson was a notable Health supporter after the second Conservative general election defeat in 1974 and he delivered a stern attack on Edward du Cann, then the chairman of the 1922 backbenchers committee, for what he regarded as du Cann's failure to back Health. McNair-Wilson was also par-



liamentary private secretary to Lord Walker when, as Peter Walker, he was Minister of Agriculture from 1979 to 1983 and one of the most prominent Tory wets.

McNair-Wilson was a first class constituency MP and pleased his supporters particularly with his long-term opposition to the women protesters

camped on Greenham Common.

He was a leading member of the Bow Group and in Parliament took a special interest in aviation.

Educated at Eton, Robert Michael Conal McNair-Wilson went from school into national service and was commissioned in the Royal Irish

Fusiliers. He served in Jordan, the Suez Canal Zone and in Gibraltar.

Back in civilian life, he farmed for three years in Hampshire, then took up journalism. He worked as a general reporter on several provincial newspapers before becoming a freelance. Between 1953 and 1955, he carried out important assignments for the BBC in Northern Ireland.

His next job was as press officer for Short Brothers and Harland Ltd, the Belfast-based aircraft company. This was his introduction to public relations, and he later joined Sidney-Baron Ltd, international public relations consultants, becoming a director in 1961.

McNair-Wilson had been an active worker for the Conservative Party since 1958. He was prominent in the Young Conservatives, serving on the executive of the Chelsea branch and later being elected chairman of the wards in Westminster branch.

He served on the executive of the City of London and Westminster South Conservative Association. He had already made his mark as a propagandist in the Bow Group when he stood unsuccessfully against Dick Taverne, QC, then Labour, in Lincoln in the 1964 general election.

In 1967 he was adopted for Walthamstow, East, which he won from Labour in the by-election of March 1969, turning a Labour majority of 1,807 into a Tory majority of

5,479. He was hard-pressed in the general election of 1970 but held on, with a majority down to 528.

In the February 1974 general election he was elected for Newbury, a constituency which includes the Greenham Common airbase. During the period of the anti-nuclear campaign, he attempted to blockade the base, he was deeply involved in efforts of local people to restore peace and quiet to their neighbourhood.

Between 1970 and 1974 he was variously secretary, vice-chairman and chairman of the Conservative backbenchers' aviation committee; for two years he was also joint secretary of the Conservative Greater London Members Committee.

From 1973 to 1979 he was a member of the Select Committee on the Nationalised Industries, and of the council of the Air League from 1972 to 1976. He had been a member of the court of Reading University since 1979.

He was a joint author of *Blackshirt*, a biography of Mussolini (1959) and he also shared the authorship of a Bow Group pamphlet, *No Time or Minor Role*, about Britain's future membership of the European Community.

He was the younger son of the late Dr Robert McNair-Wilson and Mrs Doris McNair-Wilson. He married in 1974 Mrs Deirdre Granville, and had four step-children and one daughter. His brother, Patrick, is Conservative MP for New Forest.

## DENNIS MITCHELL

Dennis Mitchell, abstract sculptor of the St Ives school, died on March 23 aged 80. He was born on June 30, 1912.

THE painter John Wells once asked in a letter: "How can one paint the warmth of the sun, the sound of the sea?" Like his friend Wells, Dennis Mitchell was one of a group of modern artists fascinated by the rugged landscape and clear light of the country around St Ives.

Many of his pieces are named after locations in the area which was his home for 60 years. Although committed to abstract art, it was a setting which inspired him to produce some of the most accessible examples of the modern movement. Those who find the work of Henry Moore or Barbara Hepworth impenetrable usually have no problem with Mitchell.

Dennis Mitchell was born in Wealdstone, West London. His father, a talent-spotter for music halls, died young, and his mother took the one-year-old Dennis, together with his brother, Endell, to live at the Mumbles, near Swansea. It was here that he first befriended Dylan Thomas. Mitchell's junior by only a few years, who lived nearby.

In 1930 the family moved to Bournemouth, near St Ives. Mitchell opened a market garden and renovated cottages for a living, painting when he found the time. They were poor and the monotony of their diet, which consisted almost entirely of rice was only broken when a local shipwreck unexpectedly provided them with tinned fruit for a year.

Mitchell had an uneventful war, electing to spend it as a face-worker at the Geovort mine involved in what he called "subterranean carving". This was dangerous work, but he enjoyed the camaraderie and would sing hymns with the miners as they went about their duties.

He did not start to sculpt till around 1949, first wood carvings, later in bronze and slate. The new medium allowed



him to become more abstract and less figurative, a tendency which was encouraged by the company he kept. St Ives was, at the time, inundated with amateur artists, who would descend in droves in August to paint the boats and beaches. But it was also a home to serious modern artists including Herbert Read, Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth and Augustus John. Dylan Thomas would stay with his friend Wyn Henderson at nearby Mousehole.

While still friendly with older, traditional local artists like John Park, the group would meet at the Castle Inn or at each other's studios to discuss modern art. Endell Mitchell had by now become the landlord of the Castle, and could be counted upon to display their work behind the bar, sometimes in exchange for drinks. The alternative, and less favoured, gallery was behind the front in the chapel art gallery of the traditionalist Society of Artists. "We had great rows but they didn't last," recalled Mitchell. It was in the Castle's bar in 1949, that he arranged the inaugural meeting of the Penwith Society of Artists dedicated to the abstract movement. Herbert Read was its president and Mitchell served as chairman from 1955 to 1957.

In 1949 he became assistant to the celebrated sculptor, Barbara Hepworth, an arrangement that was to last for 11 years. With Moore and Brancusi, Hepworth had an enormous influence on Mitchell. She was a great self-publicist with excellent contacts, (her son-in-law Alan Bowness, later Sir Alan, was Director of the Tate Gallery from 1980 to 1988), and she found Mitchell's unworldly reluctance to promote himself mystifying, while Mitchell was of the opinion that art should speak for itself. Eleven years, he felt in retrospect, was too

long, but he had, by then, a young family to provide for and needed the job.

In the late 1950s, Mitchell started to work in bronze, initially bought for him by his friend Ben Nicholson (at one time married to Hepworth) because of the expense. Using the commercial, sand-casting method which can only approximate simple shapes, Mitchell's casts would come rough from the foundry, beautifully patinated by the sand, but crudely sown off at points of contact. Mitchell would then begin carving into the solid bronze, a laborious process involving much use of files and emery paper. His style began to crystallise, resulting in some lovely abstract vertical sculptures, many of which looked like elongated screws. His work was slowly recognised by the artistic establishment. In 1966 he received a special award from the Arts Council, and by the end of his life he was represented in 25 permanent collections, and had held solo exhibitions in ten countries.

In 1969, Mitchell moved into a studio with the painter John Wells in Newlyn, Penzance. The extraordinary light that drew them there would pour in through the tall window of their studio, perched high above the harbour. Surrounded by oaks of wood and slate, Mitchell carried on working alongside his friend until his death.

A popular figure among the locals, Mitchell was always happy to meet younger artists and ready with stories about St Ives in its postwar heyday. His characteristically modest assessment of a lifetime's work, pronounced on a visit to a recent retrospective of his at St Ives (now showing in London at the Angela Flowers Gallery) was "That is not too bad".

Dennis Mitchell is survived by his wife, Jane, whom he married in 1939 and by their three daughters.



"Thrust 11", bronze, 1992

## BENJAMIN READ

Benjamin Huger Read, president of the environmental group Ecoland '92, died of complications from liver disease in Washington on March 18 aged 67. He was born in Philadelphia on September 14, 1925.

A LAWYER by training, having gained his degree after service with the United States Marines in the second world war, Benjamin Read worked as a public defender in Philadelphia before moving to Washington in 1958 and joining the staff of Senator Joseph Clark, a Pennsylvania Democrat. He worked in Congress for five years, then moved to Foggy Bottom and

became executive secretary to the then Secretary of State, Dean Rusk.

In 1968 Read worked with Vice-President Hubert Humphrey in his presidential campaign but subsequently moved out of the political field. Instead he became the founding director of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, financed jointly by Congress and private sources to provide an opportunity for intellectuals and public figures to discuss international affairs.

There he caught the attention of Willy Brandt, then Chancellor of West Germany, who endowed the German Marshall Fund in 1972. Read resigned from the Wilson Centre to become the found-

ing president of the fund, which was intended to study issues confronting industrialised nations.

During the Carter administration, as an under-secretary of state, Read became part of the State Department team that tried in vain for three years to free the American hostages held in Iran.

At the time of his death Read had just returned from Costa Rica where, in his new role as president of Ecoland '92, he had been attending a meeting of the Earth Council Foundation set up to monitor the results of last year's Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

He is survived by Anne, his wife of 42 years, two sons and one daughter.

## FREDA YOUNG

Dr Agnes Freda Newitt, formerly (as Freda Young) Reader in Social Administration in the University of Southampton, died on February 27 aged 85. She was born in Corkmouth on August 18, 1907.

FREDA YOUNG was a prominent member of a talented and vigorous group of women who introduced social and administrative studies into British universities in the postwar period. Some had worked, as had Young, in adult education; others returned from resettlement posts in Europe. They established centres for education in social studies, closely linked with professional training in social casework, on a firm scholarly base.

Young's own research interests were in the history of social policy and social work, and particularly in the development of protection for industrial workers when they sustained injuries and disabilities in their employment. One of her books - *Industrial Injuries Insurance* (1964) - has become a classic text.

Young graduated in social science in the University of Liverpool (as a prize-winner) in 1929, and took an MA in 1934.

She was lecturer in adult education in Cumberland and Northumberland for 14 years, and taught for three years in the University of Durham. She was appointed to develop social studies at Southampton in 1946, and (with Evelyn Davison and Pat O'Connell)



created a very good department.

Young was not only a first-rate teacher: she had another career as a magistrate, as a deputy chairman of the Southampton bench, and author (with Keith Clarke) of *Chairmanship in the Magistrates' Courts* (1973), a book that did much to improve dignity and courtesy in the treatment of defendants. She was co-founder and, for many years, president of the citizens' advice bureau in Southampton, and a director of the Richard Newitt Trust, which has given invaluable support to generations of undergraduates at Southampton.

Richard Newitt, whom she married in 1973, died in 1982: she carried on their joint venture with great vigour. Her doctorate, conferred by Southampton University in 1983, was a recognition of her contribution to a young university and her role as director of the Trust.

Louis Falco, modern dancer and choreographer, died on March 26 aged 50. He was born in New York.

LOUIS FALCO's choreography for the film *Fame* excited audiences and inspired young dancers throughout the world, bringing him international acclaim as a modern dancer and choreographer. Earlier he had built his reputation with the works he created for his own company, The Louis Falco Dance Company, which he directed for 16 years. He disbanded it in 1983 to concentrate on choreographing, writing and directing for film and television and creating new ballets for other companies.

Louis Falco was born of Italian immigrants and raised on the Lower East Side in New York. He began dancing professionally with the Charles Weidman Dance Company even before graduating from the High School of Performing Arts in New York City. Joining the Jose Limon Dance Company in 1960, he danced as a featured member of the company until 1970, often opposite Limon, in works the choreographer created specifically for Falco.

Louis Falco's numerous appearances as a dancer included starring guest roles at La Scala as well as performances with Rudolf Nureyev on Broadway in Limon's *The Moor's Pavane*. He was once referred to by Clive Barnes as "one of the most exciting male dancers in the world".

The Louis Falco Dance

## LOUIS FALCO



two seasons. Falco also choreographed *Caravan* for the Alley Company.

His choreographic style, combined with the use of popular music and with sets and costumes by artists such as Robert Indiana and Marisol, was largely responsible for the contemporary image that the Falco Company maintained throughout its history. The company, comprising dancers of very diverse ethnic backgrounds, toured in Canada, Hong Kong, the Middle East and Europe as well as the US and performed at major festivals. In 1983, the company was chosen to inaugurate the newly renovated Joyce Theater in New York.

Falco created more than two dozen works for his company, as well as ballets for many other companies around the world. Consequently, many of his ballets have never been seen in the United States, including *The Eagle's Nest* for the La Scala Opera Ballet, *Caterpillar* and *Journal* for the Netherlands Dans Theater, *Cooking French* for the Ballet Theatre Compagnie de Nancy and *Tutti Frutti* for the Ballet Rambert. He also choreographed for the Boston Ballet, the Carameor Festival, the San Francisco Opera and the Washington Opera Society.

Falco's involvement in film began with *Fame*, which captivated audiences with its energy, realism, natural characters and sensuality - all typical elements of Falco's choreography. The film seemed to capture the soul of young artists and of the New York High School of Performing Arts itself. It created a sensation as a dance film and was soon followed by many other films that sought to incorporate the same level of energy in dance. Falco went on to choreograph sequences in the films *Angel Heart*, *Leonard Part VI* and *Off and Running*. He spent much of the last five years writing and developing material for film, television and the video and advertising industries. In 1986 he was recognised by the advertising industry for his choreography for a series of award winning television commercials.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## RENTALS

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## NEWS

## Yeltsin survives congress anger

Both President Yeltsin and his chief political rival, Russian Khasbulatov, survived attempts by the Congress of People's Deputies to remove them. Angry congressmen sought vengeance on the two men for a which would have eliminated the congress in favour of a smaller bicameral legislature.

The impeachment of Mr Yeltsin failed to attract the necessary two-thirds majority nor were there sufficient votes required to remove his deputy. Pages 1, 12

## Coal rescue plan in danger

Michael Heseltine's coal rescue plan was in danger as backbench Conservative support was shaken by criticism from industry leaders. The leader of 5,500 colliery managers and engineers joined coal officials in warning that the pits reprieve would prove short-lived. Pages 1, 2

## 10,000 at rally

A call for peace and the end of terrorism in Northern Ireland brought more than 10,000 people to a Dublin rally inspired by Susan McHugh, the housewife behind the peace initiative. Pages 1, 2

## Right triumphs

The Gaullist party and its centre-right allies completed their landslide victory in the second round of the French elections yesterday, taking over 50 per cent of parliamentary seats and defeating a number of ministers. Pages 1, 11

## Home town pique

Patriotic Americans have launched a counter-offensive against the significant number of British films, actors and filmmakers nominated for awards at tonight's 65th Oscars ceremony. Page 3

## Just visiting

A family doctor is challenging his local health authority in the county court after a dispute over the high number of out-of-hours visits he makes to sick patients. Page 5

## British on track

British companies now exercise almost complete control over the motor racing industry, building cars for all the leading Grand Prix contenders and dominating IndyCar racing. Page 8

## Open doors

Residential homes for old people have been scrambling to fill their

beds ahead of sweeping changes in the law this week when the responsibility for deciding whether old people need state-sponsored care moves to the local authority. Page 7

## Extradition opposed

A group of MPs is to urge Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to halt the extradition to the US of two British women who face allegations that they were part of a cult murder plot. The women were members of a religious community in Oregon set up by the late Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. Page 3

## Andreotti probe

Italy's political establishment was reeling after the announcement that Giulio Andreotti, the former prime minister who embodied the state for most of the postwar period, was under investigation on suspicion of links with the Mafia. Page 11

## Somali peace

The 15 factions, whose inter-ethnic fighting turned Somalia into a starving wasteland, agreed to disarm and to form a transitional government. Page 10

## Diplomatic row

Algeria has broken all diplomatic ties with Iran and recalled its ambassador to Sudan, accusing both countries of backing the Muslim extremists. The move came amid a deteriorating security situation and unprecedented marches condemning "terrorism". Page 13

## French capture British sailors

A Royal Navy officer and two seamen from a British minesweeper on fishery protection duty off the Channel Islands, were abducted and taken to France by a French trawler. HMS *Brocklesby* intercepted the trawler off Alderney for suspected illegal fishing but was forced to shadow it to Cherbourg before the men were released. Page 1



Pitting his wits: Michael Heseltine preparing for the interview in which he said coal had an "exciting opportunity" Pages 1, 2

## Trade wars

Talks between the European Community and America on trade open in Brussels today amid warnings in Gatt's annual world trade report that markets should be kept open to encourage economic growth. Page 40

## Rough justice

The retiring head of the Fraud Squad is calling for a special panel of judges to be set up in order to better manage lengthy fraud trials. Page 40

## Air wars

The latest slashing of air fares led by British Airways will push all airlines into losses on the transatlantic routes, according to calculations made by American air analysts. Page 37

## Motor racing

Ayrton Senna won the Brazilian grand prix after rain had disrupted the race. Damon Hill was second and two other Britons, Johnny Herbert and Mark Blundell finished fourth and fifth. Page 21

## Football

Newcastle United recovered from being two goals down against Birmingham City to earn a draw and maintain their first division lead. West Ham United regained second spot by drawing 2-2 with Millwall. Page 26

## Ice skating

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean are expected to return to amateur competition, with a second Olympic gold medal as their target. Page 21

## Understated shapes

Fashion has gone native. The colours have a sun-bleached quality about them. Natural fabrics make the look easy to wear. Soft linens, washed cottons, loose-weave voiles, crumpled silks and silky raffia knits mix. Iain R Webb on the spring/summer collections. Page 15

## My generation

On John Major's fiftieth birthday, Janet Daley wonders why the fifty-something generation never feels really grown-up. Page 14

## Quality before numbers

Class size should not be the only criterion to measure teaching. Page 33

## Is it art?

The NatWest 90s Prize for Art is awarded biennially to a student who shows evidence of mastering the basic skills of drawing and composition. Other prizes, such as the Barclays Young Artist and the Turner, seem to favour conceptualism. Who is right? Page 29

## Crazy about Sylvia

The Belgian choreographer Maurice Béjart has given ballerina Sylvie Guillem the role of her life as the Empress Elisabeth. Page 29

## Bewildered by Barker

Howard Barker's *The Europeans*, his latest play to reach London, is as stuffed with symbolism and polemic as any of his previous work but with fewer four-letter words. Page 30

## THE TIMES TOMORROW

## How to handle credit muddle

What can you do if you suspect that your credit history has been recorded as linked with someone else's?

## Back-in-time for Easter

Bernard Levin takes an Easter trip not just halfway around the world, but back into another time too

## Round about the cauldron go

Alan Howard talks about tackling the Scottish play as Richard Eyre's new production of *Macbeth* opens at the National Theatre this week



William Cash sees his campaign for a Maastricht Treaty referendum as an echo of the 19th Century reform battles Pages 1, 8

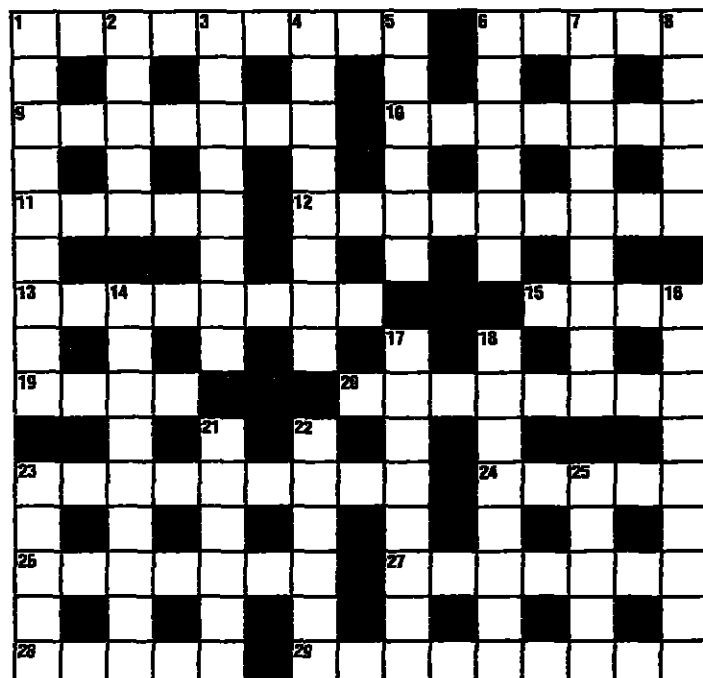


Patricia Breen, an Irish schoolgirl, is favourite to win the women's world draughts championship in Weston-super-Mare Page 5



Major General Bantu Holomisa, president of the Transkei, is resisting action against him for aiding the Azanian People's Liberation Army Page 10

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,190



- ACROSS
- New sort of lach — nice and scientific (9)
  - American growth accountants love (5)
  - The person assisting a superior (7)
  - Designate a quiet period (7)
  - Single seat has backing of socks (5)
  - A Parisienne has a list not intended for consumers (9)
  - Put out — off — over (8)
  - A mineral available in most Continental countries (4)
  - Some return for toll (4)
  - There's near-cold mash in many a kitchen (8)
  - Note the way around is to talk (9)
  - The nomad goes right on (5)
  - President assuming cap and gown for examination (7)
- DOWN
- Used to keeping a quarter property safeguarded (7)
  - Groom's outfit (5)
  - Taste before accepting popular fruit (9)
  - A car to enthral one? (9)
  - The belief of the leftist in organisation (5)
  - Catching outside left being provocative (8)
  - Give voice about employment in a fairground attraction (8)
  - Doesn't eat salad (6)
  - Many a poet affected a long cloak (6)
  - Make notes on this committee following out (9)
  - Eccentric seen out and about (5)
  - A slab of standard weight (9)
  - What a gunman needs is a vehicle of sorts and backbone (9)
  - Approach big noise about a clown (8)
  - Bill's admitted by bad losers to be a sport (8)
  - Cash that is invested in a Belgian place (6)
  - Just say he's an old-fashioned craftsman (6)
  - Dehuded failure going about fitness training (5)
  - Composer needs drive to develop (5)

PARKER  
DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,189 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Concise Crossword, page 40

## THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	704
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	705
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	706
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	707
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	708
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	709
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	710
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Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	724
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	725
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	726
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	727

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T4-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## Much of the British Isles will be cloudy at first with a little rain and some brightness in eastern England. Thicker cloud and rain over Ireland will spread eastwards, reaching most of Scotland and central England by lunchtime. Drier weather, with some brighter spells, will follow into Northern Ireland, Scotland and parts of north-west England, before further rain sweeps across later this afternoon and evening. Outlook: unsettled with rain.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	704
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	705
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	706
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	707
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Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
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Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	705
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	706
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	707
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	708
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	709
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	710
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Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	723
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Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	725
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	726
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	727

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M-ways/roads Dartford-T4-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

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George Orwell's famous account of living among the homeless in the 1930s is the peg for an update in *Down and Out in Paris and London* (Ch 4, 9pm) Page 39

## Power of petition

People have been disenfranchised and they are not happy about it. This referendum petition marks their best chance of expressing that irritation. Page 17

## French connections

The opportunity for Britain and America will be to prise apart the Franco-German alliance that has come to dominate Europe, if the new leaders in Paris prove true to their pre-electoral form. Page 17

## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I have never been a member of the Church of England, but I wish that the English, in their indifference to what the Anglican tradition has to offer, realised what they are losing. It is, after all, the church which has done most to shape the English culture. Page 16

## PETER RIDDELL

The word, at least among Tories at Westminster, if not in the country, is that the winter storms are over and a calmer period is in prospect. Just as the earlier pessimism was overdone, so the current optimism is exaggerated. Page 16

## MATTHEW PARRIS

Hardly a week passes in Parliament without a defamatory attack by an MP, in many cases upon a private individual who never sought the political limelight. Some MPs use this privilege apparently careless of the ruin they may cause to lives and careers. Any journalist who behaved in this way would be sued. Page 16

David Blunkett, MP, argues that BBC "producer choice" programming endangers quality. Page 17

Like a recidivist old lag, once a government discovers easy ways to collect taxes, it can't help coming back for second bites. British motorists already pay more than most Europeans — *The Mail on Sunday*

[The gunner] should be driven from the face of the earth either by force or by being convinced of the utter futility of their actions. The Irish Republic must give up its territorial claims



ARTS 29-30

What makes art, conceptualism or draughtsmanship?

EDUCATION 32-35

Moment of truth for FE and sixth-form colleges

BUSINESS 36-40

Rough justice: fraud squad chief speaks

BOOKS ON MONDAY Page 31

# THE TIMES 2

MONDAY MARCH 29 1993

Three Britons in the first five as rain plunges Brazilian grand prix into confusion

## Senna reigns as Hill climbs into second

Oliver Holt witnesses a thrilling win for local hero in Brazilian grand prix in São Paulo yesterday

AYRTON Senna yesterday won his home grand prix for the second time in a race of nerve-tugging excitement after Alain Prost, the clear race leader, spun off in a brief but violent cloudburst early in the race.

Senna finished 16 seconds in front of Damon Hill, who redeemed himself with a calm, controlled drive after his Williams debut disaster in South Africa a fortnight ago.

What had looked like becoming a processional victory for Prost turned into a thrilling contest after the Frenchman's exit on the twentieth lap. At first, it appeared that Prost, who was more than 10sec ahead of Hill in second place, had made a rare misjudgment in not coming into the pit to change to wet tyres. But after the race, the Frenchman revealed that a mix-up with his team had led to his early exit.

"I was going to come in on that lap, but then somebody said something to me on the radio," Prost said. "I thought it might be that Damon was in the pits and I decided to play it safe. I came down the top straight and ran over some of Suzuki's rubbish and that is what made me go off. I am very disappointed because I think I could have won this race comfortably."

It was an excellent race for the Britons. In addition to Hill's justification of his place at Williams, Johnny Herbert finished fourth in the Lotus and Mark Blundell fifth in his Ligier to add to his third place in South Africa in the opening race in the season.

When Hill passed Senna on the eleventh lap to move into second place behind the Frenchman, it seemed that Williams-powered domination on this circuit would give them an easy double.

Senna had said before that he did not think it was possible for McLaren to improve upon third position. But the rain-

storm changed all that. Senna was first into the pits to change tyres, closely followed by Schumacher and Hill.

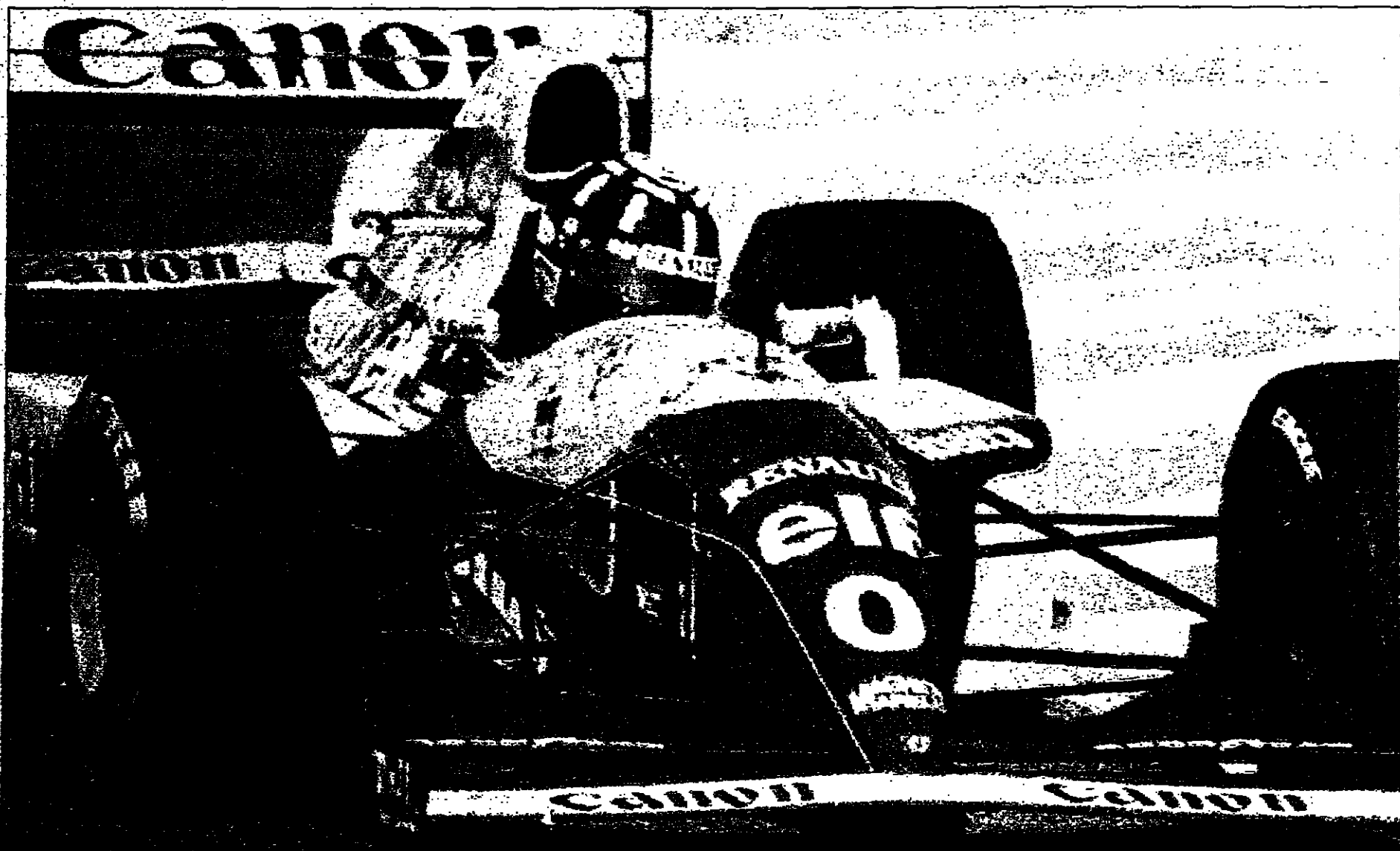
One lap later, the track was a confusion of wreckage. At first, Fittipaldi and then Suzuki crashed in the main straight. Prost weaved his way through the debris, but crashed at the end of the straight. One lap later, the race organisers decided to use the pace car to slow down the race while the wreckage was cleared.

It was the first time the device had been used since it was introduced before the British grand prix at Silverstone last summer and it effectively wiped out the 9sec lead that Hill had suddenly found himself with after Prost's demise. The field bunched up for seven laps until the race proper restarted on the 38th lap.

As the sun dried the track, Senna and Schumacher almost immediately stopped to change back to dry tyres. Hill stopped a lap later and emerged from the pits just yards in front of the Brazilian. But Senna's tyres were warmer and he dismissed the prospect of what would have been an amazing first win for Hill, in only his fourth grand prix, when he glided past him almost immediately.

Senna thereafter steadily increased his lead by almost 2sec a lap as Hill seemed content to gather some much-needed racing experience and consolidate his second position. Behind him, a fascinating cameo contest for third place developed as Schumacher charged past Blundell to move up onto Herbert's tail.

Herbert, who was battling for his first podium position, thrillingly held the German off with one breathtaking manoeuvre two laps from the end when the German overtook him and then Herbert passed him on the inside an instant later. But in less than a



Driving force: Hill and his Williams-Renault get to grips with the challenge of his fourth grand prix at Interlagos yesterday

minute, later, he bowed to the inevitable when Schumacher squeezed past on the top straight. It was still the Renault driver's best result since his grand prix debut here in 1989.

Michael Andretti was airlifted to hospital after a juddering first-lap crash with Gerhard Berger, but he suffered only slight back and arm injuries in what was nevertheless a miserable continuation of a disastrous start to his season.

After the race, Senna said: "This is one of my greatest races, but the last win is always the one you remember most."

Senna went on to criticise the race organisers. "They made a big mistake when they gave me the 10sec penalty for overtaking under a yellow flag at the beginning," he said. "What they did not realise was that I was lapping someone and he lifted off to let me overtake. It was absolutely crazy. People making these decisions should be more

careful."

Regarding his future, Senna said: "This is not the time to talk about it. I just want to enjoy this result at my home grand prix."

Damon Hill, the son of double world champion Graham Hill, said he was delighted with his second place. "I was pushing hard in the race and thought I had a car I could win with," he said. "But I lost ground in traffic and Senna got past me. After that, I decided second place was not

a bad result for my fourth grand prix."

The 24-hour Le Mans 24-hour motorcycle race will be scrapped unless racegoers behave themselves next month, a French government official has warned. Nine riders were killed in a series of crashes outside the circuit last year and local authorities are determined there will be no repeat. "The 24 hours of motorcycling will not become the 24 hours of beer drinking," a government prefect said.

### RESULTS

1, A Senna (Br) McLaren-Ford, 307.753km in 1hr 51min 15.466sec; 2, D Hill (GB) Williams-Renault, at 16.825sec; 3, M Schumacher (Ger) Benetton-Ford, 45.438; 4, J Herbert (GB) Lotus-Ford, 46.557; 5, M Blundell (GB) Ligier-Renault, 52.127; 6, A Zanardi (It) Lotus-Ford, at one lap.  
7, P Alliot (Fr) Larrousse-Lamborghini, one lap; 8, J Alessi (Fr) Ferrari, one lap; 9, D Warwick (GB) Footwork-Mugen Honda, two laps; 10, E Comas (Fr) Larrousse-Lamborghini, two laps; 11, M Alboreto (It) Lola BMS-Ferrari, three laps; 12, L Badoer (It) Lola BMS-Ferrari, three laps.  
Drivers' championship: 1, Senna, 18pts; 2, A Prost (Fr), 10; 3, Hill, 6; Blundell, 6; 5, Schumacher, 4; equal 6, Herbert and C Fittipaldi (Br); 3, 8, J J Lahti (Fin), 2; equal 9, G Berger (Austria) and Zanardi, 1.  
Constructors' equal 1, McLaren-Ford and Williams-Renault, 16pts; 2, Ligier-Renault, 6; equal 4, Benetton-Ford and Lotus-Ford, 4; 5, Minardi-Ford, 3; 6, Sauber 2; 7, Ferrari 1.

### McGrath chosen as player of year

PAUL McGrath, the Aston Villa defender whose career seemed in doubt five years ago because of injury, was last night named the Professional Footballers' Association player of the year.

McGrath, 33, who hopes to help the Republic of Ireland towards a place in the World Cup finals on Wednesday against Northern Ireland, finished ahead of Paul Ince, the Manchester United midfielder, and Alan Shearer, the Blackburn Rovers striker presently sidelined through injury.

It is a remarkable triumph for McGrath, who feared for his future when he was at Old Trafford because of knee trouble, but has been outstanding in Villa's challenge for the Premier League title.

**PFA PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** P McGrath (Aston Villa); 2, P Ince (Manchester United); 3, A Shearer (Blackburn Rovers).  
**YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** R Gough (Manchester United); 2, M Sainsbury (Oxford United); 3, R Jones (Preston North End).

**UNIVERSAL TEAM:** FA Premier League: P Schuster (Manchester United); D Bardsley (Queens Park Rangers); P McGrath (Aston Villa); G Taylor (Blackburn Rovers); A Dwyer (Leeds United); P Ince (Manchester United); G Speed (Leeds United); R Keane (Blackburn Rovers); A Shearer (Blackburn Rovers); I Wright (Aston Villa); R Gough (Manchester United).  
**FIRST DIVISION:** M Bedford (Barnaby); S Hiley (Barnaby); R Hiley (Barnaby); V Ovenson (Barnaby); P Shaw (Port Vale); G Channon (Barnaby); R Taylor (Port Vale); J Taylor (Port Vale); D Bradley (West Bromwich Albion); M Stein (Sheff Wed); A Walker (Sheff Wed); S Taylor (West Bromwich Albion); G Pearson (Sheff Wed).

### Cambridge show ruthless streak

Scarcely in the history of any two-horse event have the bookmakers been worse informed. The Boat Race odds of 1-4 on Oxford, belonged to the realm of Cam-



David Miller watches Cambridge end Oxford's domination of the Boat Race with a crushing display

bridge. Cambridge, in a different league from the first stroke, buried Oxford within the first two minutes.

Cambridge used to perfection the big cleaver blades, scorned on the day by Oxford. There is no team so emotionally bankrupt as a beaten Boat Race crew and distressed Oxford finished as though with a hatchet in their backs. Beefeater, the sponsor, which has put £1 million into the race over three years, will have been delighted at such a contradiction of predictions.

The reputation of this now globally transmitted event, never mind the reputation of Cambridge, was revived by a victory that was crushingly conclusive, terminating what had become an Oxford closed shop for 16 of the past 17 years. So synchronised and so overwhelming was Cambridge's superiority that they exceeded even their own expectations that they would match Oxford for about a mile, establish a marginal lead then burn them off.

"We knew we could do it after about 25 strokes," Malcolm Baker, Cambridge's amiable American postgraduate, said. Others, such as James Behrens, the restrained president, gave conventional, more modest, reflections: like being sure at Barnes Bridge.

Baker, part of the engine room at No. 6, grimed in a tidal wave of pleasure. He said: "The intention was to wait until Martin Haycock, our cox, was about to level with their No. 2 (over half-a-length lead) and then to open

him and the hopes of thousands was there in the face of Mason's rival, Gardiner. And when, an hour or so later, showered and blazed and trying to hide his sorrow at the boat house, Gardiner passed a jubilant Mason, still in singlet and chanting to interviewers, the Oxford stroke had to look away.

Mason reflected: "I could have thought about many things, waiting for the start. But I thought of nothing but simply the first stroke, how important it was." What a lesson in sports psychology from this near-adolescent.

All sport, in the ultimate moment of realisation, can be cruel. Richard Phelps, a veteran of 27, of the Olympics, world championships and Henley, knew enough of losing to Oxford to savour the satisfaction of victory. "The idea was not to beat them but to shatter them, to leave them

humiliated," he said, without apparent aggression.

"When we were a length up, we felt we'd win. But for the rest of the race, we were mentally stamping on them. The relief is more than anything I can imagine."

The joy, Phelps admitted, was making Oxford feel bad. The way Cambridge have felt bad for so long. The mental approach is one of destruction: winning a place in the boat then winning the race. This is a competitive arena. The Cambridge motto stretches back more than a century: "G.D.B.O." God damn bloody Oxford.

The intensity of the event is hard to describe. Jon Bernstein, Harvard land economist, attempted to do so. "You wake up on the day three hours before you want to, with a sinking dread and, simultaneously, a tingling in your fingers. The whole day is a cross between these two emotions. You do nothing but watch the second hand of the clock, hoping that when the moment arrives you can focus all that desire."

How extravagantly Cambridge did just that. There was disbelief among two generations of Cambridge coaches in the pursuing launches and on the banks as hope became reality, as all the years of oppression rolled away behind the swinging rhythm of clean, crisp, almost mechanical, unity as Cambridge left Oxford growling.

"We were flying," Bernstein recalled. From his far-away gaze, you could sense how it must have felt at the time. And as the generous Matthew Finsent, the Oxford president, said: "They never gave us a chance."



Pain and pleasure: Cambridge celebrate beating Oxford in the 139th Boat Race on Saturday

Leading article, page 17

### Torvill and Dean hint at Olympic return

By MICHAEL COLEMAN

JAYNE Torvill and Christopher Dean are expected to announce tomorrow that they will make a long-awaited return to amateur competition, with a second Olympic gold medal for ice dancing as their principal target.

At Sarajevo in 1984, the Britons mesmerised the world to the music of Ravel's *Bolero*. Next February, in the Norwegian ski resort of Hamar, they hope to complete an astounding double after an absence of ten years.

Winter Games organisers at Lillehammer, already inundated with accommodation enquiries since Katarina Witt, the champion in 1984 and 1988, announced her return, will be stunned by more good fortune.

Norway will not be the only beneficiary. As well as the Olympics, Torvill and Dean will have to shoulder a heavy competitive season. As part of an agreement, under which the National Ice Skating Association will sanction their return, the Nottingham-born couple will take part in the national championships in December and the European competition in Copenhagen in January.

The press conference tomorrow is also expected to reveal that Torvill and Dean will contest the world championships in Japan next March. A high placing in that competition would ensure that Britain has three couples competing next year in Birmingham, when a British venue will stage the world championship for the first time since 1950.

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## Gorman defends missing quartet

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE United States and Switzerland, the finalists last year, went out in the first round of the Davis Cup at the weekend as Australia and India turned the pre-tournament forecasts upside down.

An American team without Jim Courier and Pete Sampras, the world's two top-ranked players, Andre Agassi, the Wimbledon champion, and John McEnroe, collapsed to a 4-1 defeat in Melbourne. Brad Gilbert, David Wheaton, Richey Reneberg and Jim Grabb could never match the Australian team of Mark Woodford, Wally Masur and Todd Woodbridge on grass courts in front of a partisan home crowd, taking only the final singles.

The Americans' ignominious exit was in sharp contrast to their triumph last December over Switzerland amid scenes of patriotic fervour in Fort Worth, Texas, and raised questions about the future of Tom Gorman, the non-playing captain.

The leading Americans refused to play because they said they did not want to miss out on the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) circuit. Several also indicated they would like McEnroe, a passionate Davis Cup supporter, as their captain.

But Gorman defended the right of players not to take part and called for closer cooperation with the ATP, after the United States' heaviest Davis Cup defeat in nine years.

"Their schedule is very full," Gorman said. "There should be more communication and coordination between the ATP and the International Tennis Federation to work within the players' schedule. I would like to see different proposals that could make it easier for players to commit themselves and know their schedule earlier."

But Neale Fraser, the Australian captain, said: "I was disappointed at the American team. I think the competition deserves better."

Leander Paes, ranked 202nd in the world, and the veteran, Ramesh Krishnan, worked hard in Calcutta's stifling heat to overcome Marc Rosset and Jakob Hlasek, both ranked in the top 40, and guide India to a surprise 3-2 victory over Switzerland.

France, Germany, Sweden, Italy and Czechoslovakia all reached the quarter-finals.

## Pieterse reaffirms her right to world-class status

FROM DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN AMOREBIETA, SPAIN

YOU will remember her as Zola Budd and yesterday, for the first time in seven years, she made her mark at international level. Zola Pieterse, now married and unharassed by political controversy, demonstrated at the world cross country championships here that she is tuning up to become a winner once more.

The two senior events produced first-time champions, Alberta Dias, of Portugal, and William Sigel, of Kenya, but Pieterse was the talking point. In the finest field

assembled for a women's cross country race, Pieterse was fourth, within a stride of a medal and ahead of Liz McColgan.

"That is the best race I have had since I started running again," said Pieterse, South African-born but controversially given a British passport to compete in the 1984 Olympics. Though she has been training seriously for two years after leaving Britain disillusioned in 1988, South Africa was under an international ban in 1991 and last year she suffered a liver disorder. "If I can come fourth this year, definitely I have a chance of winning again in the future," she said.

Lynn Jennings, the Bostonian

who was third after three successive world championship wins, acknowledged the part played by Pieterse. "That was the fastest race I have ever been in," Jennings said. "The pace was unrelenting and we can thank Zola for that."

Pieterse stretched the field early, prompting the thought that, after winning twice for England in the mid-Eighties she might now do so for South Africa. But then Elena Meyer, Budd's successor as South Africa's running queen, passed and broke clear. Pieterse joined the chasing group, which included Catherine McKiernan, of Ireland, runner-up last year, and Dias, who had been second and third in years

past, while McKiernan was working her way up after a slow start. Just after halfway in the 6,350 metres race, McKiernan and Dias caught Meyer. With two kilometres to go, Meyer was dropped and, with one kilometre remaining, McKiernan could hang on no more. Dias, 27, was heading for the top step of the dais.

Two seconds covered McKiernan, second again. Jennings and Pieterse, McKiernan's training has been tailored to the London Marathon on April 18 and she ran 87 miles last week while others eased down. But she grew in prominence as the race wore on, sprinting past Meyer at the line for fifth, her

highest position at any stage. Sigel's victory was a triumph for tactics. He had been nominated by Mike Kosgei, the team coach, as Kenya's best hope and the squad was instructed to assist him.

While some subdued Khalid Shah, of Morocco, the Kenyans' most feared rival, others escorted Sigel. 22, into the final kilometre where he broke away. "He was our darling, so we had to take care of him," Kosgei said. "He has the future of John Ngugi." Ngugi won the title a record five times.

The championships were disappointing for Britain, with not a team or individual medal won by either seniors or juniors.

## Pakistan led home by bold Inzamam

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

PAKISTAN were a rabble when they came off the field halfway through the third Cable and Wireless one-day international in Port of Spain on Saturday. Yet they went on to win it by seven wickets, scoring the 260 they needed, at just under six runs an over, with 11 balls to spare.

It was an extraordinary match. A cynic might have been forgiven for thinking that West Indies threw it, so as to keep the one-day series, perhaps even the tour, alive. That was not so, of course, but it may give an idea of how Inzamam and Mujtaba picked up runs, almost unhindered, in the closing stages. By then West Indies had been run off their feet, just as the Pakistanis had before them.

The last 15 overs of the West Indian innings, seen of which were bowled by Wasim and Waqar, brought 142 runs. For much longer than that, the Pakistanis had been wasting time so shamelessly, as a means of keeping down their final target, that Raman

Subba Row, the "referee", would have been justified in fining them a great deal more for bowling only 45 overs than the statutory percentage of their match fee, which amounted to not much more than £50 a man.

Ironically, the only batsman on either side to find runs hard to come by was Lara, who has spent most of the year showing others how to bat. He made five in 28 balls without timing an attacking stroke. The most brilliant batting of all was Richardson's 46 in 27 balls. Until he appeared, in the thirtieth over of the day, Pakistan had kept West Indies down to 115 for two. The remaining 58 overs of the match produced an average of seven runs each.

By the end of the West Indian innings, Wasim Akram had lost control of himself and his side. Nobody knew where to go, though there was no shortage of suggestions. Nothing seemed more certain than that Pakistan were on the way to losing a tenth successive one-day international to these West Indians. That they won it, instead, was largely to their credit. They did it, moreover, despite a couple of run-outs at critical moments, and despite being without Javed Miandad, suffering from some phantom strain or other. Come to think of it, Javed's absence could have been more of a help to Pakistan than a hindrance. All-out attack is no longer his strength.

The pace was set by Amir Sohail and taken up by Rameez Raja. But the clinching was done by Inzamam (90) and Mujtaba (45), who had added 130 in 95 balls when the winning runs slipped through a pair of West Indian legs. Although Inzamam has been responsible for the running out of Rameez, that was his only mistake. Of no other side has been quite so typical to be seen, in one and the same day, at their very worst and their very best.

Australia took the one-day series against New Zealand by a 3-2 margin by winning the final match in Auckland by three runs yesterday.

New Zealand, who had squared the series on Saturday, needed 14 from the final over, bowled by Hughes, to surpass Australia's 232 for eight but Larsen and Pringle managed only ten, which made their partnership for the ninth wicket worth 54.

Mark Waugh had scored 83 in as many balls for Australia, who were checked by Latham, who took five for 32 in his ten overs.



Irrepressible Inzamam treated the West Indies fast bowlers with rare disdain

SCOREBOARD	
WEST INDIES	
B/L Lara c Rashid b Nazir	5
D/L Haynes c Basit b Nazir	68
P/O Richardson c Inzamam b Sohail	46
C/L Hooper c Wasim b Waqar	24
Extras (b 15, w 4, nb 6)	25
Total (4 wickets, 48 overs)	260
PAKISTAN	
A/S Sohail c Ambrose b Bishop	42
R/R Raja c Ambrose b Bishop	90
M/M Miandad c Ambrose b Bishop	17
A/L Mujtaba not out	45
Extras (b 11, w 10, nb 3)	24
Total (6 wickets, 48 overs)	260
FALL-OF-WICKETS: 1-71, 2-100, 3-130, 4-160, 5-210, 6-260	
BOWLING: Ambrose 6-1-49-0 (w 4); Walsh 10-0-43-0 (w 2); Bishop 10-0-48-1 (w 1); M. Waqar 10-0-44-0 (w 1); Hooper 7-1-0-45-0 (w 4); Nazir 8-0-4-0	
Man of the match: Inzamam-U-Haq	

BASKETBALL	
<p> <b>Indo</b> (Yi Ge Chang (Gang), 15-10, 18-13; P. Chang (Gang) (Yi Ma (Mao) (Indo</p>	



Western Samoa upset form book and continue their climb up international rugby union ladder

## Colourful carnival capped by Fijian show of genius

What is it that makes a great sporting occasion? Hard to say, as hard as defining what makes a great city, or a sporting genius. All you can say for certain is that when you are there — you know. And I have been reeling in all three at once this weekend.

The city in question is the most improbable city in the world. The event is the Hong Kong Bank Cathay Pacific Invitation Sevens. And the genius is Waisale Serevi, of Fiji, who even overshadowed the flying Wallaby, David Campese.

An upset victory can elevate every sporting occasion, and an upset is what we had. Fiji, who have won the event on the last three occasions, seemed to have an easy match in the final. After all, Western Samoa should not really have been there. They needed a violent upset of the form book to beat New Zealand in their semi.

But Fiji, inspired against Australia in their own semi, lost their way and their discipline against their Pacific rivals. Western Samoa won 14-12 and showed that, over the last couple of years, they have become a force in the world game. The Hong Kong crowd, normally faithful to Fiji against all comers, changed station and yelled for the underdogs.

Another aspect of the great sporting occasion is the interaction of audience and participants. Each inspires the other, and is re-inspired in turn. I have seen this happen when Italy played at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, when Ireland played England at rugby last week and when India played England at cricket in Bombay last month. It happened in the final here. Western Samoa fought like demons, Fiji fell apart in indiscipline and the Western Samoan march up the world rugby ladder continues.



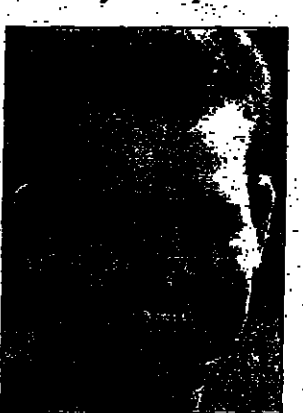
The best sevens player the world has seen. Simon Barnes witnesses something extraordinary as sides from the southern hemisphere dominate Hong Kong sevens

And as Pacific rugby marches on, so the northern hemisphere falls further behind. Northern hemisphere interest in this event faded abruptly at the quarter-finals. The Welsh were thumped by Fiji, Ireland lost a magnificent scrap to Australia and Scotland were the first side to learn that Western Samoa meant business.

As for England, they never sent a team. The Hong Kong sevens is a celebration of rugby's future, polychrome, no longer a game for Brits and colonialists: the game has marched on. The World Cup, the event that catapulted rugby into the modern age, came from an original idea by Hong Kong.

England's continued absence from this, the great original, defies belief.

Polychrome indeed. Of the four semi-finals, only the Australians had a majority of white faces; most of the All Blacks were from the Pacific races. And it was the Fijian, Serevi, who fit the occasion with genius. Not a word to use lightly. I like to define the quality — in a sporting context, anyway — as an apparent ability to suspend the



Campese, overshadowed

laws of physics and biology simultaneously.

Serevi's performance in the semi-final against Australia was something to treasure. Fiji won 17-14; Serevi scored every point: three tries and a conversion. The first try was a short range swerve through deep cover; with the second, he opened the Australian defence like a sardine can, passed, took the return and finished; the third — well, the third was so brilliant it was utterly incomprehensible.

He took the ball with seven green-and-gold shirts in front of him, and ten seconds later, put the ball down behind the try line. How did he do it? The thing was quite clearly impossible. At all great sporting moments, even cynical press chaps emit an instantly-suppressed, wholly involuntary, cheer. But when the moment is better than great, your jaw drops open and you are reduced to head-shaking silence. This was one of those.

Serevi won the player-of-the-tournament award. Indeed, the judge of that award, Clem Thomas, shares my belief that Serevi is the best sevens player in history. He almost won the final with one run of corkscrewing brilliance. But Western Samoa had the quality of joint inspiration. In all team games, individual genius can do only so much.

The World Cup sevens, an event which takes place in Edinburgh in a couple of weeks, is a rip-off of the Hong Kong event. No matter: they could hold a sevens tournament every weekend and Hong Kong would remain unique.

One of its special charms is

the proliferation of minnows. After the group phase of the first day, the 24 teams compete in three competitions. Tonga beat Italy to win the secondary competition, the plate, and in the tertiary contest, Romania prevented a Pacific clean sweep by beating Papua New Guinea. I first covered this event in 1979, when I lived in Hong Kong. The standard of the minnows has been noticeably higher every time I have done so since. The Hong Kong sevens has probably done as much to raise the standards of the world game over two decades as any other single factor. Is that what they have against the event at Twickenham?

One thing I am certain of is that Twickenham would have delighted in South Africa's first appearance in Hong Kong. However, for all their much-discussed (also much-ignored) professionalism, they were outplayed in the semi-final by the All Blacks. But even South Africa rugby sees the future in international terms these days.

This remains a uniquely satisfying event. The location is a great part of it: sport is an expression of optimism; Hong Kong is the most spectacular embodiment of sm the world has seen. I wonder if genius, too, is an expression of optimism; a self-belief so strong that physical realities fade and disappear in its face.

The Hong Kong sevens continues to embody the grand, defiant optimism of all great sporting events. As for Serevi, he was a living, jinking, sprinting embodiment of optimism. It was wonderful. It was not enough.

Results, page 22



Multi-talented: the mercurial Serevi halts a Western Samoan advance in the Hong Kong final

## Oxford fail test of mind against matter

By Andrew Longmore

OXFORD did not know it, but they lost the Boat Race well before the 17-minute lesson in teamwork administered by inspired Cambridge eight on Saturday. Instead of being overawed by the array of Olympic and international talent in the Oxford boat, or downcast by their own sequence of failures, Cambridge used a touch of classic underdog psychology to wreak devastating revenge on their tormentors. Wimbledon Football Club would have been proud of them.

A month before the race, when the final eight had been chosen, the Cambridge coach, John Wilson, handed each member of the crew an envelope. Inside was a photograph of Matthew Pinsent, the Oxford president and Olympic gold medal winner, looking imperiously out over the Thames from the Houses of Parliament and smiling. Underneath the photo was written a simple question: "Do you want to beat this man?"

"We had done all the hard work and I wanted the crew to ask themselves whether they really wanted to win," Wilson said yesterday. "To win, we had to beat possibly the best Oxford crew ever and Pinsent, an Olympic champion and their president, embodied who we were up against."

The response was immediate and overwhelming. Cam-

bridge went out the following day, thrashed an experienced Molesey crew that included six Olympic oarsmen, and never looked back.

The shift in the psychological balance of power was etched on the faces of the two eights on Saturday. Cambridge relaxed, calm, full of purpose; Oxford tense, unsure, frightened of failure.

As they cooled in the feeling of victory for the first time in seven years, the light blues came within touching distance of the broken Oxford crew outside the boathouses. The moment cried out for magnanimity, but the residue of six months' concentration could not be cast off so easily. "Yes,"

shouted the Cambridge stroke, Will Mason, his finger jabbing towards Pinsent's man as they slumped over their oars, heads bent like a row of Rodin statues.

Later, Mason revealed how brutally they had used Pinsent to symbolise Oxford's arrogance and complacency. "We thought about him and his Olympic gold medal and we wanted to see him cry over his oar at the end of the race. We wanted to be able to come into the post-race hall and say: 'Matthew Pinsent, we beat you.' It's nothing personal — he's probably a great bloke — but all of us felt the same way. We were just tougher than them."



Call to arms: James Behrens, centre, the Cambridge president, salutes victory

Whatever people think about intelligent men being reduced to the "we beat you" mentality of the playground, there was no denying the effectiveness of Cambridge's methods. They rowed as if hounded by the demons of all those defeats and their swirling strokes carried them to a victory so emphatic that Harry Mahon, their bouncy, bearded coach from New Zealand, asked: "Race? It wasn't much of a race, was it?"

As a newcomer to the event, Mahon had not acknowledged the F-factor, the fear of failure. He saw a crew with potential and helped to mould it into a formidable unit. "We started on September 1 with

no thought of defeat and we developed slowly as a team. There were no real stars, just a bunch of guys who listened and believed in you."

Today, Mahon returns to his real job as coach to the Swiss rowing federation while his opposite number at Oxford, Steve Royle, reflects that perhaps this time, his crew had too many stars. "They were a good crew and very powerful, but they just didn't gel. It's difficult when you have people from so many parts of the world," he said.

"Cambridge rowed very well. We must make sure now that they don't put a run of victories together."

To his credit, Pinsent lost nothing in defeat. He was the first to shake hands with the victors and, moments later, behind the Oxford boathouse, gathered his crew together to remind them about the old-fashioned virtue of losing well. "We need to be better losers than they have ever been. It's over now."

There was at least some compassion among the victors. Dirk Bangert, the German international, caught a glimpse of the beaten Oxford eight and knew from the previous year how bad the feeling was. "It's not a boxing match when you hit someone. Maybe some look at it like that, but I don't need it. I just remembered how horrible it was to lose and I was glad it wasn't me again this time."

## Cambridge used diet supplement

By John Goodbody

CAMBRIDGE University's success in the Boat Race will add credence to the claim that creatine supplements improve athletic performance. The Cambridge eight used Ergomax, a brand name for the food supplement, in their training for three months before the race, just as Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell, Colin Jackson, and the Searle brothers did before the 1992 Olympic Games.

The Boat Race eights did not undergo drug tests either before or after the event on Saturday, although the seven members of the two crews, who are members of either junior or senior national squads are liable to be subjected to short-notice out-of-competition testing by the Sports Council.

Creatine is not a banned substance, but its use by a Cambridge crew, determined to reverse a long run of defeats, shows how important the race has become in the international sporting calendar, with its world-wide television audience.

Creatine, a white crystalline nitrogenous substance found naturally in human muscle, is important in the transfer of energy in a cell. Dr Roger Harris, a physiologist at the Animal Health Trust in New-

market, said: "Fat and carbohydrate are petrol in the tank. Creatine is the oil."

Much of the early research into creatine was done at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm by Eric Hultman who, in the 1960s, discovered the benefit of carbohydrate loading for endurance events, another practice carried out by the Cambridge eight last week. He describes creatine as "a good alternative to drugs, and there are no risks involved."

Research in Estonia and at Nottingham University has shown an improvement in muscle function both in explosive and endurance events.

Jackson said that he used creatine to help him come back from an injury before his 110 metres hurdles races at the Olympics, and it seemed to contribute to his quick recovery.

However, Dr Malcolm Brown, who accompanied Britain's athletics team to Barcelona, said: "Some competitors reported benefits while others did not."

Bruce Longdon, Gunnell's coach, said that creatine did not seem to make any difference to the preparation of the Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, who is no longer taking the substance.

## Self-belief makes big difference

CAMBRIDGE exhibited a bravery and self-belief on Saturday unseen in their crews for years (Mike Rosewell writes). Everyone knew they were a good crew, well drilled, sharp and powerful, but would they be prepared to take the race to Oxford on the day?

Recent Cambridge crews have matched or led Oxford in the early stages but, perhaps with thoughts of the long race ahead, have failed to deliver the killer blow, the race last year being a classic example.

Cambridge's self-belief was revealed when James Behrens, their president, won the toss and chose Surrey, handing to Oxford the first long Fulham bend, surprising Matthew Pinsent, of Oxford, who had decided to choose Middlesex.

Cambridge dropped below record pace but led by 12 seconds at Barnes and by 11sec, three-and-a-half lengths, at the finish (17min 00sec).

The season has turned out splendidly for Cambridge, whose reserves, Goldie, beat their counterparts, Isis, by eight-and-a-half lengths and broke the record for the reserve race by 29 seconds. Ominously for Oxford, Cambridge will have five of their Boat Race crew and five of Goldie back next year.

## Wigan scrape to another Wembley final

Bradford Northern.....6  
Wigan.....15

By Christopher Irvine

IN SIX years, the holders have not endured such a white-knuckled ride to Wembley, nor been faced with a more awesome prospect than in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final on May 1. Providence has been tempted no often in the past, but Wigan's groggy emergence from their semi-final ordeal will have encouraged Wigan.

Bradford Northern hit Wigan hard, just not fast enough. Had the speed of Cordie, Keble and McGowan been available, the difference might have been enough. Then again, if they had gone for goal six minutes from time and reduced the arrears to a single point, who knows? They

did not. Dermott heeled Bradford's scrum feed 20 metres out, and, with a dip of the shoulder, Farrar, the powerful Australian centre, surged across the line.

Relief, not euphoria, filled the unmoved quiet of the Wigan dressing-room. In 30 consecutive winning ties, Shaun Edwards, who is now set to equal Andy Gregory's record of eight final appearances, could not recall anything as tense. "We only pipped Halifax in the last round late on, but this was even more nerve-racking stuff," he said. "They had us wobbling."

For 15 minutes, after a scampering try by Simpson, Bradford glimpsed the promised land. A dread silence descended on much of Elland Road, but the Yorkshire side never got a sniff of their opponents' line again, and

Wigan's composure was at its strongest in a wonderfully climactic finish.

Such a toughening process, and their annual appointment in London, gives John Moxie, the coach, room for his usual guarded optimism. Widnes, however, on the evidence of Saturday at least, possess the component parts to rattle Wigan in the tackle and make ground up the middle. Here, the fitness of Moriarty will be crucial. They also have the pace and finishing strength to sustain a greater onslaught than Bradford.

There is a predictability about five one-man drives and hoofs down field by Edwards that Widnes, with their creative axis of Jonathan Davies and Goulding at half back, are better provided to disrupt. They will need a more proficient kicking game than Fox managed, and more of the

attacking vision shown by Watson.

Watson was equally visible in a stoic defensive effort, twice holding up Robinson, although the first burst by the winger, under the posts, looked a clear score.

After a pointless first period, the quick thinking of Edwards and hands of Dermott initiated an early second-half score by Hampson, whose intervention from full back, when he sent Farrar galloping clear, was clinched the man-of-the-match award.

SCORES: Bradford Northern: Try: Simpson, Cordie, Keble, McGowan, Farrar, Goulding; Goals: Cordie (5). Dropped goal: Edwards. BRADFORD NORTHERN: D. Watson; R. Simpson; T. Moriarty (capt); M. Taylor; D. Davies; J. Anderson; N. Summers; D. Fox; D. Hodge; R. Noble (capt); M. J. Harris; R. Powell; K. Fothergill; P. Mackay (capt); D. Hewitt. WIGAN: S. Edwards; J. Robinson; J. Lydon; A. Farrar; M. Cordie; P. Keble; S. McGowan; S. Moxie; A. Platt; D. Best; P. Clapham; D. Bell (capt); S. Parsons. Referee: J. Holdsworth.

## St Helens regain top place from Wigan

ST HELENS maintained the pressure on Wigan and regained the lead of the Stones Bitter championship when they ended Warrington's three-match unbeaten run with a 32-17 victory at Wilderspool yesterday (Christopher Irvine writes).

Kevin Ward, the veteran prop forward, who has been offered a year-long extension to his contract at Knowsley Road, but is also interesting Halifax, put Gary Connolly through for a try and scored a second-half touchdown when Duane Mann and Greg Mackey, of Warrington, were ordered to the sin bin. A try by Teo Ropati secured a handsome win.

Wigan, with a game in hand, embark on a run of five games in 19 days, starting at home against Leigh on Wednesday, but without five players selected by Great Britain for the international against France two days later. Dean Bell, their captain, will miss the key home game with on April 9 after being concussed in the Challenge Cup defeat of Bradford Northern.

Elletry Hanley's two early tries, which takes his season's tally to 32, helped Leeds to a 39-34 home win against struggling Hull.

Featherstone Rovers secured the second division title by overcoming Rochdale Hornets 24-22. At the bottom of the doomed third division, Chorley Borough improved their chances of survival by defeating Nottingham City 57-20, and Highfield increased Blackpool's worries and eased their own plight with a 19-12 win.

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## Newcastle salvage draw despite defensive drawbacks



Rodgers: unopposed

Newcastle United.....2  
Birmingham City.....2

By LOUISE TAYLOR

**SALVAGING** a point after Birmingham surrendered a two-goal lead, Newcastle kept their supporters in suspense at St James' Park yesterday. Top of the first division Kevin Keegan's team may be, but promotion is not quite assured and a few more stumbles like this could well extend the uncertainty into May.

In the press room before the kick-off, Viv Busby, the Hartlepool United manager, who was summarising for national radio, had lamented losing Andy Saville, his

leading scorer, to Birmingham last week. "Andy will always get goals, he's a natural," Busby said. Saville lived up to reputation in the 31st minute when he provided City with an unlikely lead.

Driven right-footed through a forest of shin pads from six yards after Newcastle had failed to clear a corner, it was a classic poacher's goal and Saville's third in two games for Birmingham City's £150,000 transfer.

St James' Park had barely had time to recover from the shock when Birmingham sprung a second in the 39th minute. Scott stood off respectably as Saville directed a cross towards Rodgers' forehead. Unopposed by Beresford, who was supposed to be marking him,

Rodgers headed past an immobile Simek.

Over half-time, Newcastle must have reflected on chances scorned. Most memorable were the moments when Cole, who showed signs that he might live up to his £1.75 million transfer from Bristol City, shrugged off Dryden to hit a post and Lee, looking classy wide on the right, saw his shot rebound off the legs of Catlin, Birmingham's Australian goalkeeper.

Suitably spurred, they improved after the break. Having scuffed a gift-wrapped opportunity over the bar, Cole finally eluded Catlin on the hour, shooting at full stretch, after Kelly had split the visiting defence by turning Matthewson.

A minute later, Sellers, rescued

from Leeds' reserves by Keegan, created the equaliser, centring from the left for Lee to claim his twelfth goal of the season. Both goals came at the end of sweeping, attacking moves, which have been the hallmark of Newcastle's football this season.

Although Catlin saved smartly to repel shots from Lee and Kelly and Dryden headed off the line, United's defensive vulnerabilities had cost them two points, and against Premier League opponents, it would probably have been three.

If Keegan might be well advised to invest in a new defender or two, Birmingham's recent expenditure of £1 million on six players in the wake of the club's takeover by the publisher, David Sullivan, seems to

be paying dividends. Terry Cooper's team are fast replacing relegation worries with a rise toward mid-table respectability, and the promise of better things next season.

By then, Newcastle should be part of the Premier League. As Keegan said: "We can see the winning post, but I have seen a lot of horses glimpse the winning post at Cheltenham, but never quite make it up the hill and over the last few yards." If, and it is a big if, Newcastle fall, they will have only their defence to blame.

**NEWCASTLE UNITED:** P. Swickard, B. Venison, J. Beresford, P. Beresford, K. Scott, S. Howey, R. Lee, A. Cole, D. Kelly, I. Clark, S. Sellers.  
**BIRMINGHAM CITY:** B. Catlin, S. Hiley, J. Finn, G. Paris, R. Dryden, T. Matthews, P. Moulden, I. Rodgers, A. Saville, D. Peck, D. Smith.  
Referee: E. Parker.

## Albion's hopes take turn towards play-offs

Bradford City.....2  
West Bromwich Albion...2

By IAN ROSS

**DESPITE** rescuing a point when all hope had virtually been abandoned, West Bromwich Albion may now be forced to concede that their chances of winning automatic promotion to the first division are, at best, slim.

Although they produced some refreshing football towards the end of a distinctly lethargic performance, Albion were outplayed for lengthy periods.

On the evidence of yesterday, a place in the play-offs would appear to be a more realistic target.

Any neutral who had wandered into Valley Parade would have been forgiven for believing that it was the hosts, and not the visitors, who had enjoyed a more fruitful campaign.

Bradford's sense of urgency was the more acute; their football more polished and effortlessly fluent. That they did not reap the reward, which would not only have been deserved but was clearly on offer, was attributable to ill fortune and an overambitious sense of bravado in and around the penalty area.

Bradford could scarcely have enjoyed a more promising start when they punished Albion's initial hesitancy and amateurish defending in the eighth minute.

Stapleton, the Bradford player-manager, who was starting only his third senior game in seven months, crossed from the left wing and, after a succession of Albion defenders had declined the opportunity to clear, Jewell turned smartly to dispatch a firm volley.

Albion's lack of penetration was pronounced in the 45th minute, yet they drew level within four minutes. In his haste to clear an awkwardly bouncing ball, Hoyle inadvertently sent Garner tumbling to the ground.

Taylor's successful penalty was his side's only shot on target in the opening hour of the game. In response, Bradford continued to produce the more authoritative football but it was not until the 55th minute that they regained the lead.

It was a goal worthy of a bigger stage for, after collecting Heseltine's immaculate 60-yard pass, Reid displayed remarkable composure before slotting a low drive just inside a post.

Bradford's superiority was such that it should have proved decisive but, as the match entered its final minute, Hunt, a second-half substitute for McNally, rose at the far post to head in Liwall's cross, giving Albion a point they hardly deserved.

**BRADFORD CITY:** Bowling, G. Williams, W. Heseltine, I. Durbury, G. Oliver (sub: C. Liwall), G. Hoyle, P. Jewell, M. Durbury, F. Stapleton, S. Torpe, P. Reid.  
**WEST BROMWICH ALBION:** A. Lange, N. Reid, S. Lowe, D. Bradley, P. Raven, D. Burgess, S. Garner (sub: M. Hoyle), I. Harrison, R. Taylor, B. McNally (sub: A. Hunt), R. Donnan.  
Referee: D. Allison.

Fry has transformed Derek Payne, a tiny midfielder player, from a humble apprentice into a confident, skilful scorer, whose teasing presence gave Barnet control that threatened to frustrate Cardiff's ambitions.

For Barnet, it's never mind jetting into Europe but a matter of keeping the show on the road without running into the ditch of Football League disapproval that threatens them. Fuelled by something money cannot buy, a marvellous club spirit, they most certainly don't deserve to lose their precious league status.

Garner: tumbled over

## West Ham squander chance to open gap

West Ham United.....2  
Millwall.....2

By KEITH PIKE

**WEST** Ham's pursuit of Newcastle United at the top of the first division will continue with one eye cast nervously over their shoulder. Having surrendered second place to Portsmouth on Saturday, they regained it yesterday, but missed a chance to pull a couple of points clear of the pack.

David Speedie, who has had as many clubs as he has goals this season — four apiece — will shoulder most of the blame. He had written in the programme: "It's never been a problem winning over the fans of my team." It may not be so easy now. Twice in an extraordinary final minute he was one-on-one with Keller, the Millwall goalkeeper, and twice he failed to win the match for his latest employers.

Speedie will probably be remembered only for his misses, but his earlier contribution to West Ham's cause should not be overlooked. Recruited on loan from Southampton after brief spells with Birmingham City and West Bromwich Albion, he was a perfect foil for Morley and should ensure that Clive Allen's absence through injury did not scupper West Ham's promotion hopes.

Millwall, too, look a good bet for the play-offs, even if the atrocious surface at Upton Park — and West Ham's determination to deny them space in midfield — meant their intricate approach play was often bogged down. They moved up one place, to fifth, and there is now a six-point gap between those in the play-off zone and those outside it.

The Football League's insistence that goals scored, not goal difference, should be used to separate teams meant that West Ham started knowing that they could lose 5-1 and still overtake Portsmouth. It seemed, initially, that they were intent on exploiting the absurdity of the situation.

Millwall were ahead after 35 seconds, and Jamie Morley's reputation as one of the most exciting young strikers in the country grew with the goal. Put through by Malcolm Allen, his pace took him clear of Potts, and a right-foot stab left Midosko helpless. It was finishing of the highest order.

West Ham, though, are unbeaten at home in 16 matches and, for over an hour, displayed what Buter's dynamism first helped wrest the initiative from Millwall, and then two goals inside 30 seconds had them reeling.

Speedie had a hand in both, although his contribution to Keen's opener was more by accident than design. When Potts's free kick dropped eight



Shouldering arms: Keller, the Millwall goalkeeper, punches clear under the challenge of Speedie at Upton Park yesterday

yards out, Speedie's attempted overhead kick was destined for the corner flag, but proved instead to be an inspired pass to Keen, who volleyed in at the far post. "I'm forever blowing bubbles" when West Ham scored again, Morley getting on the end of a more orthodox move involving Butler, Keen and Speedie. Keller partially blocked the shot, but Morley had managed to get enough

force behind the ball to send it over the line. Winning all the tactics that mattered, West Ham continued to enjoy an ascendancy they had never achieved when losing 2-1 in a stormy affair at The Den in November. Seven players were booked then, but in the well contested and well controlled return yesterday there was only one, Roberts, of Millwall.

Gale, bending a free kick

against the inside of Keller's right-hand post three minutes into the second half, and Morley, who headed Keen's inviting cross straight at the goalkeeper, might have put the result beyond doubt. Instead, Millwall poached an equaliser from nowhere. Stevens squeezing home a header when a free kick found West Ham wanting, for once, for a firm clearance.

Not content, Millwall went

in search of a winner — bold, laudable, but bordering on the reckless. Five minutes from time, Dawes had to scrape Morley's shot off the line after a mix-up between Stevens and Keller. Then Speedie, having just allowed Keller to take the ball off his toes, shot feebly wide when Millwall presented him with a marvellous chance to atone. For once, the loan ranger failed to oblige.

**WEST HAM UNITED:** L. Midosko, T. Speedie, K. Brown, S. Potts, A. Cole, I.

Stapleton, M. Robinson, P. Butler, D. Speedie, T. Morley, K. Keen.  
**MILLWALL:** K. Keller, K. Cunningham, J. Dawes, A. Roberts, C. Cooper, K. Stevens, G. Maguire (sub: T. Gaydon), I. Bogie, W. Allen (sub: J. Kent), J. Morrison, P. Barber, S. Roberts, M. Bailey.  
[Bristol City climbed out of the relegation zone yesterday when they beat Grimsby Town 1-0. Nicky Morgan headed the decisive goal in the seventh minute. The crowd of 6,755 was the lowest at Ashton Gate for a league match this season.]

## Hoddle has cause to see red

**UNLESS** they have a taste for strong language, any fans that gather on the wall of Glenn Hoddle's office this morning should protect their ears with a red scarf. The Swindon manager has every right to chastise his players and, judging by what he left unsaid after the goalless draw with Brentford on Saturday, he will do just that.

One man in particular will feel his ire, and deservedly. Steve White was the first to go but it was Mitchell, ushered off by a furious Hoddle, who drew the manager's verbal sting.

Publicly Hoddle would say only that he would be "having a word with him". It will be a long one. He admitted that, after Mitchell had been booked in the 35th minute for persistent fouling, and before he walked eight minutes later for raising his boot at Millen, he had warned Mitchell five times, once at the referee's request, to cool down.

**Michael Henderson**  
on the dismissals  
that threaten to dash  
Swindon's hopes

Mitchell could see that Callow, having sent White off in the 32nd minute for elbowing Millen in an aerial challenge, was in no mood to tolerate any nonsense. Yet he showed his studs to the same player in a manner that suggested he had taken leave of his senses.

To lose both strikers at such an important stage of the season, with Swindon so involved in the promotion battle, provides Hoddle with a problem he could do without. Already he is without Maskell, the club's leading scorer. In reserve there is only Close, a second-half substitute on Saturday.

Swindon must wait and see how many matches White and Mitchell will miss. All being well, they should at least be available for the

home games against Leicester, the first division's form team, and West Ham, who are in second place. If he has any words left over, Hoddle could commend the performance of Calderwood and Taylor. Both stood so tall at the centre of the defence that Brentford's numerical advantage counted for little.

Swindon's job was made easier by Brentford's woeful display. If the desultory press briefing of Phil Holder, the Brentford manager, is a reliable indicator, the players will have to provide their own rhetoric as they try to avoid relegation. Had he instructed the flower of English manhood on the eve of Agincourt, Henry V might have been unseated before noon. "We few, we happy few, but only if we have the right attitude and make things happen."

**BRENTFORD:** G. Bonehead, B. Statham, K. Sazonov, K. Allen, T. Evans (sub: M. Jones), S. Peadar, P. Stephenson, A. Dickens, M. Gave, G. Biscotti, S. Marquis.  
**SWINDON:** T. White, F. Ogby, N. Summerton, P. Boin, G. Hoddle, C. Close, S. Taylor, B. Marwood (sub: S. Close), R. MacLennan, D. Mitchell, M. Long, S. White.  
Referee: V. Callow.

**AT TWO** o'clock on Saturday afternoon, the vast wasteland of car park that separates Ninian Park and Cardiff Athletic Stadium was filling fast. "Here come the Zebras, out once a year," a sardonic observer said of the lines advancing to take their places in the crowd of 16,073 that watched Cardiff City draw 1-1 with Barnet and stay top of the Barclays League third division.

At 2 o'clock yesterday, a man walked his mastiff across deserted ground while a javelin thrower packed his spears on Inter Cardiff's home pitch, to make way for a Konica League match with Conway.

The trickle of spectators took their places in the stand, having paid £2 — children free — to good-humoured officials. The home goalkeeper, George Wood, former Scotland international and veteran of three national leagues, finally arrived, having been called at home to be told the clocks had gone forward 12 hours before.

All low-key stuff, very much standard for non-league. Yet the tension on the pitch was

**Walter Gammie reports on two clubs from different stations in the football hierarchy aiming to take a trip to Europe next season**

palpable as Inter edged their way to a 1-0 win that kept their noses in front of Cwmbran in pursuit of a big prize.

For next season, Inter may claim priority parking as the city's senior representative in Europe. City have agreed to lend their neighbours their ground if they take the title in the Konica League, established this season largely to secure places in the European and UEFA Cups.

Inter's European Cup fixtures would take precedence over matches in the European Cup Winners' Cup for which City will qualify if they finish off Wrexham and then beat Rhyl in the final on May 16.

As a ready-made route into any future European league, dropping City into the Konica League is an option that Rick Wright, City's financial controller, is contemplating. So is closing down the club.

Wright has signed cheques for the past two years to clear City's debts, develop the ground and meet the endless running costs — he scribbled out £36,000 to meet January's shortfall. He now says his time is up. For £2 million, a buyer would get players worth £2 million and a ground worth £4 million, and no debts.

A market research company has approached 400 businesses in the area to find out if they will back City. Wright will reveal the answers this week.

"I made it quite clear that I am not going to go into a third or fourth year. I am a businessman, not a football man."

Wright, however, extended his largesse to Barnet on Saturday by dropping £1,000 into the kitty for their journey home, a generous tribute to a deserving bunch.

So committed are Barnet's players that they have told

Barry Fry, their manager, they will complete the season for nothing if necessary after wages cheques bounced again last week.

Barnet had reason to celebrate with Wright's champagne money — two one-handed, gravity-defying saves by Gary Phillips, after he had blocked a penalty by Chris Pike, preserving a lead given by Nicky Evans's header in the eighth minute until Cohen Griffith equalised six minutes from time.

Fry has transformed Derek Payne, a tiny midfielder player, from a humble apprentice into a confident, skilful scorer, whose teasing presence gave Barnet control that threatened to frustrate Cardiff's ambitions.

For Barnet, it's never mind jetting into Europe but a matter of keeping the show on the road without running into the ditch of Football League disapproval that threatens them. Fuelled by something money cannot buy, a marvellous club spirit, they most certainly don't deserve to lose their precious league status.



Garner: tumbled over

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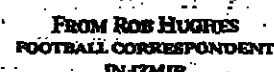
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# Platt's leadership essential for success



We shall know in three days if England's hopes towards World Cup qualifying have had similarly reassuring progress here in Turkey. To this observer, the importance of a win is furthered by the hope that Platt, with

Gascoigne and Platt will be the key figures in establishing not only mid-field supremacy but in creating the opportunities for Ian Wright, who has so far not scored in seven internationals, and for Les Ferdinand, who came home to Queens Park Rangers via a

It is said always at this time of year that the English are lions in winter, lambs by the spring. That reference, emanating from the former Viscount

A pity, for unless Gascoigne is in ebullient form, unless Platt can generate victory out of his customary industry and leadership, it is harder and harder to see that England will outclass the Turks. Their recent two games in the same group, against Holland, both finished 3-1 to the Dutch, demonstrating that Turkey are at least learning how to score.

**PROBABLE TEAM:** C Woods (Sheffield Wednesday), L Dixon (Aston), D Walker (Sampdoria), A Adams (Aston), A Sinton (Queens Park Rangers), P Ince (Manchester United), D Platt (Juventus), P Gascoigne (Leeds), C Palmer (Sheffield Wednesday), I Wright (Leeds).

overshadow skill on another day  
of learning for the English game

Cremonese's first goal came from the head of their captain, Verdelli, who just beat Taylor to Florjancic's corner, and their second from the penalty spot via Maspéro after the Derby goalkeeper had been adjudged to have brought down Tentoni. It was a harsh decision in its own right, in the context of the mayhem going on elsewhere on the field; it was downright laughable. But more of that later.

Cremonese's third, eight minutes from the end, was a stroked home with aplomb by

Now the fun and games, which would not have been out of place at the American Gladiators show down the road.

The match programme had been most helpful in giving the translations for red card, man-marking and diving. Unfortunately, it had omitted elbowing in the face (Gualco on Gabbiadini), tripping while the ball was 50 yards away (duno), tackling with a boot which starts thigh high

Derby were far from blameless — they conceded 30 free kicks to Cremonese's 12 — but the majority of their fouls were at least committed during some recognisable attempt to win possession; good old English ruggedness, if you like. Cremonese preferred the sly backhander, the histrionic re-

hours, as she does each morning. She got herself ready to play the cheers of the home state mates, Ann Fuller and Julie English Women's Indoor Bobsled wood triples champion. She hit the Tye Green row 23-15 in the field, skipped by Chris Wever. Ward, their skip, was a member of the national outdoor team.

ing, before someone suggested  
y in the national semi-finals. Team  
supporters, Ward and her team-  
mate Boosey, went on to win the  
bowling Association national two-  
on their own green. They beat  
the semi-final and King George  
sies, 21-14 in the final. Although  
oor title for the Stevenage club  
umber of the Baldock team that  
nles title in 1990.

1

Glabbiadini, whose father was born an hour's drive from Cremona, was the perfect Italian job; Dezotti's play-acting a reminder that the man who was sent off in the 1990 World Cup final when representing Argentina has a reputation to uphold.

The post-match diplomacy would have restored faith to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who presented the trophy. "We have more than met our match today," Arthur Cox, the Derby manager, said. "It is easier to destroy than create." was the nearest he got

**Roll on next season**

**CREMONENSE:** L. Turco, L. Gualco, Pedroni, G. Crestani, F. Caimone, Vercelli, M. Gensdelsberg, E. Nicolini, Torsion (sub: M. Montorfano), P. Pieracini (sub: G. A. Dezotti).

**DERBY COUNTY:** M. Taylor, M. Patterson, J. Foreyn, S. Nicholson, S. Coleman, L. Pennington, G. Mackenzie, R. Goulden (sub: S. Hayward), P. Kilson, M. Giabbardini, Johnson (sub: P. Simpson).

**Referee:** J. U. Velasquez (Spain).

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**FORECAST:** Dividends will be low with 15 jackpot draws, four high score-draws and two no-score draws. No claims required.



## Discovery rules unsatisfactory

**Unilever plc v Chefaro and Another**  
Before Lord Justice Gillewell, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Hoffmann  
[Judgment March 11]

The rules of discovery in patent actions concerning multinational companies were unsatisfactory and required amendment.

Lord Justice Hoffmann observed after the Court of Appeal had allowed an appeal by the second defendant, Alan NV, from an order of Judge Peter Ford, sitting as a High Court judge, on May 29, 1992 that service of a summons on them should not be set aside.

Mr Christopher Floyd, QC, for Alan NV; Mr Henry Carr for Unilever.

**LORD JUSTICE HOFFMANN** said that the rules of discovery in patent actions were not altogether adequate to deal with multinational groups of companies.

When validity was challenged on the ground of obviousness, it was standard practice to ask for

discovery of the research and development which had gone into the defendant's product. The object was to demonstrate, by reference to the work of the defendant's own researchers, that the subject matter of the patent could not have been obvious to them.

That worked perfectly well when the research, manufacture and sale were undertaken by the same company.

In the case of a multinational, however, the alleged infringer might be a marketing company operating in the UK and the research and development might have been done by another group company in different country.

Whether one could obtain discovery against the latter company depended, as the Court of Appeal had decided in *Unilever v Gillette (UK) Ltd* ([1989] RPC 583), upon whether a good arguable case could be shown for joining the company a substantive defendant.

That would involve demonstrating that that it was arguably part

of a common design to commit the acts which were alleged to constitute infringement. In practice, however, the plaintiff had no interest in obtaining final judgment against the additional defendant.

The plaintiff would have achieved its objective by keeping the additional defendant in the action for the purpose of discovery. It therefore seemed strange that its right to do so should depend upon whether the court thought there was a serious issue to be tried on a question which thereafter no one would seriously want to have tried at all.

The present case also showed that the *Unilever v Gillette* principle could create difficulties when the multinational was uncooperative, exactly which company in the group was responsible for manufacture, research and development.

The plaintiff had to guess, or apply for a Norwich Pharmacal order for disclosure (*Norwich Pharmacal v Commissioners of Customs and Excise* [1974] AC 133), which again depended

upon a substantive cause of action, or, as in the present case, join the ultimate holding company on the strength of a last resort appeal to the general control it must have over the group.

As the present appeal had shown, showing that it had control might not be enough and even if the plaintiff discovered which company undertook the research and development, it might be insufficiently insulated from the UK marketing to avoid any arguable liability on the basis of common design.

The logical solution was that discovery of research and development documents should be obtainable against a multinational on a group basis.

It should not depend upon the particular corporate structure of the group and how it had chosen to divide its activities. That would require legislative change which the responsible authorities might wish to consider.

Lord Justice Gillewell and Lord Justice McCowan agreed.

Solicitors: Hopkins & Wood; Needham & Grant.

## No power to order disclosure

**In re B (Minors) (Disclosure of Medical Reports)**

Before Mr Justice Douglas Brown  
[Judgment March 12]

Since proceedings under the Children Act 1989 were adversarial, although they should be conducted in a non-adversarial spirit, there was no power, as there might be in wardship proceedings, to order disclosure of a medical report on which a party did not intend to rely.

Mr Justice Douglas Brown so held in the Family Division when giving directions in interlocutory proceedings in preparation for care proceedings under section 31 of the 1989 Act, concerning two children of the same mother but with different fathers.

Mr Paul Rippon for the mother; Miss Jane Probyn for the local authority; Miss Anne Bradwell for father A; Miss Lesley Carter for father B; Miss Cheryl Williams for the children and the guardian ad litem.

**MR JUSTICE DOUGLAS BROWN** said there was serious concern about the health and well-being of the children and it was the record of the mother's case that was to be examined. The matter came before Mr Justice Hollis before the children and the guardian ad litem.

Mr Rippon said that the law was clear that medical reports made on behalf of a party to litigation on the advice of a legal adviser were privileged documents and, in the absence of waiver, no order for disclosure could be made.

His Lordship was referred to *Causton v Mann Epton (Johnsons) Ltd* ([1974] 1 WLR 162) and

was without apparent qualification, and therefore in mandatory terms, that each party serve the named doctors' reports by March 9. On March 9 an application was made, to his Lordship, to order disclosure by consent of records from six hospitals.

Mr Rippon, who did not appear before Mr Justice Hollis, asked in effect that the order be amended by the addition of words to the effect that the mother file and serve the reports of her doctors if she intended to rely on them.

Counsel for one of the fathers and the guardian ad litem, opposed that. Mr Rippon submitted that the reports were governed by legal and professional privilege and the mother could not be forced to disclose them against her will.

It was not completely clear whether there had or had not been any waiver of privilege before Mr Justice Hollis but for the purposes of this decision it was assumed by his Lordship that there had been none.

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in a non-adversarial spirit. Mr Justice Johnson's justification for the decision in *In re M*, was that he would have been exercising the wide powers of the wardship judge. Those powers were not available to his Lordship when giving interlocutory directions on a section 31 care order application.

Miss Bradwell had argued that the paramountcy of the welfare principle was common to both wardship and Children Act proceedings, and so it was, but the justification for taking the highly unusual step of overriding legal and professional privilege was the particular nature of wardship proceedings not inherited by the Children Act jurisdiction.

Children Act proceedings were adversarial in the sense that each party was entitled to be heard and to challenge opposing evidence in cross-examination and to be represented by solicitor or counsel.

If the courts ought to have the power to direct the disclosure of legally privileged material in children cases then it would have to be given those powers by legislation.

Solicitors: Stenberg Read Taylor & Gill, Barking; Moss & Coleman, Hornchurch; Lillywhite Williams & Co, Dagenham; Hatten, Jewers & Mepharm, Basingstoke; Gary Jacobs & Co, Chadwell Heath.

**LORD JUSTICE EVANS** said that it was common ground that the court had jurisdiction to make the order sought. But the fact that the application had been made

and heard should not encourage further applications in cases where the applicant had a statutory right of appeal and indeed a statutory right to the alternative procedure of requesting a care order from the justices.

In fact, his Lordship would go further and to say that such applications should be discouraged, not least because the power to make an order of *cautari* was discretionary and it might well be refused on the ground that the procedure was inappropriate in the circumstances of a particular case.

His Lordship made it clear that those factors did not apply in the instant case where the matter was properly before him with the leave of the court.

Their Lordships thought that the ten-year disqualification imposed by the justices was an appropriate sentence in the circumstances.

Solicitors: Leslie Oliver & Co, Barking; CPS, Harrow.

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## No jurisdiction to hear discrimination claim

**Khan v General Medical Council**

Before Mr Justice May, Mr D. G. Davies and Miss C. Holroyd  
[Judgment March 18]

The right of review of a decision of the General Medical Council to refuse to grant full registration to a doctor qualified in Pakistan was "a proceeding in the nature of an appeal" within the meaning of section 54(2) of the Race Relations Act 1976 and the applicant was therefore excluded from the right to present a claim of unlawful racial discrimination.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing an appeal by Dr Mubarak Ali Khan from a decision of a London industrial tribunal in April 1992 that it had no jurisdiction to hear a claim of discrimination against the GMC.

Mr Thomas Kibling for Dr Khan; Mr Timothy Straker for the GMC.

**MR JUSTICE MAY** said that the hearing before the industrial

tribunal was to determine whether, having regard to the provisions of section 54(2) of the 1976 Act, a tribunal had jurisdiction to hear his claim.

Dr Khan, of Asian origin, had qualified in Pakistan and was given five years limited registration when he came to England.

He twice applied to the GMC for full registration pursuant to section 25 of the Medical Act 1983 but was unsuccessful and his appeals to the Review Board for Overseas Qualified Practitioners pursuant to section 29 of the 1983 Act also failed.

The provision of the 1976 Act by which the discrimination alleged by Dr Khan was made unlawful was section 12 which provided that it was unlawful for a body conferring a qualification which was needed for engagement in a profession to discriminate against a person on the basis of race.

Section 54(1) gave the right to make a complaint of discrimination to an industrial tribunal but

subsection (2) excluded a complaint under section 12 in respect of which an appeal or proceedings in the nature of an appeal might be brought.

The issue was whether a review under section 29 of the 1983 Act was "an appeal or proceedings in the nature of an appeal".

Mr Kibling submitted that since section 54(2) of the 1976 Act removed the right to complain of unlawful discrimination on the ground of race to the industrial tribunal and thereafter to the Employment Appeal Tribunal, it should not be held to do so unless there was an alternative statutory procedure by way of appeal providing the same measure of protection.

Essential characteristics of an appeal were the independence of the appeal tribunal from the original tribunal and the right to make oral representations.

The Appeal Tribunal considered that the proceedings should have the characteristics of fairness enabling the person who wanted the

original decision changed to make his case. Procedural characteristics identified by Lord Justice Taylor in *R v Board of the Defence Council, Ex parte Anderson* ([1991] 1 CR 537) should in substance be present.

The proceedings of the review board did have those characteristics. The applicant was to be given written notice of the grounds of his decision, the opportunity of an oral hearing if the chairman considered it desirable, for representation where there was an oral hearing and for the board to state its reasons in writing. The review board was sufficiently separate and independent from the committee of the GMC taking the original decision.

The proceedings before the review board were an "appeal or proceedings in the nature of an appeal" and the industrial tribunal had no jurisdiction. The appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Pictons, Hemel Hempstead; Field Fisher Waterhouse.

## Credit for reporting son's offence

**Regina v Catterall**

Where a father had acted in the public interest by telling the police that his son had been abusing drugs, that fact should be taken into account and credit given when the court came to sentence the son.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Beldam and Mr Justice Schiemann) so stated on March 5 when allowing an appeal against sentence by Darren Joseph Catterall from Warrington Crown Court (Mr Assistant Recorder D. Parry) which had sentenced him to a total of four years concurrent in a young offenders institute after he had pleaded guilty to five counts under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 of supplying and possessing class A and class B drugs.

The court substituted sentences totalling two years concurrent on each offence.

**LORD JUSTICE BELDAM** said the offences were serious although there was no evidence that the defendant was supplying to any other than his own friends for their own use.

If a parent out of consideration for his own child believed that it was in the public interest to report him, it seemed that was a matter which a court should take into account when it came to consider how to deal with such offences.

Substantial credit was given to a person charged with such an offence who gave assistance in the tracing and origins of sources of supply of drugs.

## Child to be told who her father is

**In re R (a Minor) (Access)**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Hoffmann  
[Judgment March 22]

There was an urgent need for a child aged five, brought up to believe that her mother's cohabitor was her father, to be told the truth and thereafter for steps to be taken to re-introduce her to her natural father.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the father, to the extent of adjourning his application for contact with his daughter, from an order made by Judge Griffiths in Maidstone County Court forbidding him to have any contact with her.

Miss Catherine Munn for the father; Miss Anne Ralphs for the mother.

**LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS** said that the father had had no contact with his daughter, now aged five and at school, since 1989. She had been brought up to believe that her mother's cohabitor was her father and had no idea of

the existence of her natural father.

The mother, either unwilling or unable to tell her daughter the truth, requested that she be given time to defer the moment of telling, probably until her daughter was eight.

It was the right of a child to have a relationship with both parents wherever possible. The child was born to a married couple who had parted and the normal consequence would be continuing contact.

The father's application to the court was sincere and there was nothing to be said against him to dislodge him to be a parent to his child. But it was unrealistic and indeed dangerous to try to re-introduce him without prior information given to the child. That information the mother was incapable of giving at this stage.

The long term could not be left in limbo. The child had a right to know the truth. Indeed the need to know the truth for a child at school with a different surname from her perceived father was becoming urgent if she was not to suffer from

being told casually. There were real dangers to the child of not being told the true facts.

To wait until the age of eight was wholly impracticable. To leave it to the mother was to allow her to put an unwelcome duty to one side.

The mother, stepfather and the child needed skilled help in overcoming the first stage and that was best provided by a child psychiatrist who could get to know the family, give them reassurance and preferably get the mother to tell the child herself. The next stage would be an evaluation of the best way to introduce the father and daughter.

A great deal of patience was required of the father. But he had to remember that going slowly at this stage made more likely the prospect of a genuine relationship with his daughter which would last the rest of their lives.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Hoffmann agreed.

Solicitors: Gulland & Gulland, Maidstone; Whitehead Monckton, Maidstone.

## Burglary very serious offence

**Regina v Lewis (John)**

An "ordinary burglary", which was one of a number that had occurred in the Home Counties during 1990 and 1991, resulted in a first prison sentence of 18 months and a fine of £1,000 for the defendant, a very serious offence by Judge Slot in Guildford Crown Court.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Goff, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Pill and Mr

Justice Sedley) so held on March 15 when giving judgment on an appeal by Andrew John Lewis, aged 36, of Sutton Valence, Kent. He had pleaded guilty to the burglary and also to eight counts of handling stolen goods from other such burglaries, for which he received two years imprisonment consecutive to the 18 months.

**MR JUSTICE PILL**, giving the judgment of the court, said that

such offences had been referred to as ordinary burglaries because they took place at the homes of persons whose recent deaths had been announced in the newspapers.

The ordinary burglary was so serious that only a custodial sentence could be justified. The handling offences required consecutive sentences but two years was too long and would be reduced to 12 months.

## Original arrest was not lawful

**Edwards v Director of Public Prosecutions**

Before Lord Justice Evans and Mr Justice Morland  
[Judgment March 23]

An intervenor who sought to assist the prevention of an arrest which, in the circumstances, was not a lawful arrest within section 25 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, could not be charged with wilful obstruction of a police officer in the execution of his duty, contrary to section 51(3) of the Police Act 1964.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when (i) allowing the appeal of Deborah Edwards by way of case stated against the decision of Mr Ronald Bartle, Bow Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, on May 11, 1992 that the arrest was lawful, and (ii) dismissing the charge against the appellant.

Miss Victoria Tegg for the appellant; Mr Jeremy Benson for the prosecution.

**LORD JUSTICE EVANS** said that from the facts as found, police officers on plain clothes duty in Piccadilly on Saturday October 10, 1991, at about 10.45pm saw three men huddled by a dustbin and, reasonably suspecting that they were in possession of cannabis, exercised their powers of search under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The officers produced their warrant cards and one of them said to one man, seeing a substance in his

hand, that he was going to search him. The man clenched his fist, turned away and put the contents in his mouth.





**THEATRE page 30**

Philip Franks: he is impressive in Howard Barker's *The Europeans*, a polemical new play

**BOOKS page 31**

Philip Roth: in his new novel *Operation Shylock* he explores the art of fiction itself



# ARTS

## The battle lines are drawn

**Alison Roberts**  
reports from the front line between conceptual and conventional art in our colleges

One are the days when art students whiled away their time in a haze of bohemian creativity. To be an art student now is to enter a fierce battle which may be slowly changing the nature of art school education. By now this year's winner of the NatWest 90s Prize for Art, a biennial award worth £5,000 to the winner, will have been informed of his or her success. Judging took place last week and an official announcement is expected next month.

The prize, for art college students, sets itself up opposite the Barclays Young Artist Award and its subsequent exhibition of shortlisted candidates which this year attracted heated criticism. Published comments included summaries of the show as a "mixture of pretentiousness, undirected ingenuity, woolly thinking masquerading as significant thought..." from critic Frank Whitham; and "bleak and utterly trivial horrors, mercifully transient", from Brian Sewell.

The NatWest prize, by contrast, sets specific parameters with the aim of rewarding those entrants who have mastered basic artistic skills: drawing, composition and the handling of a chosen medium. Winners must also show an acquaintance with the Masters. It is about painting properly, about artistic literacy.

For his part, Sewell believes that new generations of artists lack exactly these qualifications. As he wrote, they "have never known the art of the past and have no skills or traditions by which to return to it".

The opposing sides in this art education debate ally themselves either with the increasing body of "traditionalists", who laud the supposed return to teaching the rights and wrongs of painting, or with the "avant-gardists", those who believe in the supremacy of creativity above technique and comprehensibility.

The latter were heard defending the Barclays prize and its mixture of video art, steel barriers and sculpture made of bedsteads and granulated sugar. Some of the former were its attackers.

Both sides are fielding impressive



Checking for signs of mastered skills and techniques? Chantal Joffe, one of the judges of the 1993 NatWest 90s Prize for Art, closely examines a shortlisted entry

guns, but the old-school painters seem to be winning over many. Hilton Kramer, art critic of the *New York Observer*, is one such. In the spring edition of the magazine *Modern Painters*, he writes: "A good deal of what is produced in drawing and painting classes today bears a closer resemblance to the kind of commercial images we are familiar with in the media and business world — than to the great drawing and painting that has come down to us from the past, even the 'recent' past."

Kramer has an all-pervasive sense of "kitsch" for this, a clichéd artistic rhetoric serving up ready-made images and emotions. His article is titled *In Defence of Painting*.

According to Anthony Mould, chairman of the NatWest judges and keeper of the bank's art collection, the rationale for the award came out of discussion in which "people felt that the basic skills are

not encouraged enough. The philosophical, conceptual approach is allowing people to get away with murder; we just wanted to encourage the technical skills again and then allow the exciting ideas to be produced in a stable way."

He stresses that this should not be seen as pure reaction against the Turner prize-winners and the Barclays exhibitors of the art world. They are the reactionary ones, out to shock an audience which is shocked-out.

The first NatWest prize-winner, in 1991, was Chantal Joffe from the Glasgow School of Art. She was one of this year's judges — the others were Diana Rigg and Craigie Aitchison.

The panel agreed that the Glasgow school had proved impressive again. And one of the criticisms directed at the Barclays candidates was that they all came from London schools.

Joffe's tutor at Glasgow was

Sandy Moffat, a firm believer in the "continual battle" within art schools, and an advocate of the basic-skills-first style of art education. Moffat says: "We prepare the ground. But that means, hopefully, also preparing the ground ideas-wise. Artists are not fit to take part in the battle until they have acquired the basic skills."

The young artist who captured the headlines late last year, and who perhaps had a direct influence on the current debate, was conceptual artist Damien Hirst, the winner of the Turner Prize.

"I think he is an interesting artist," says Moffat, carefully. "But I do not think he is a great genius and you certainly can't compare him to someone like Francis Bacon."

Moffat believes (and here echoes Kramer), that young artists want, more than anything, to be famous for 15 minutes. There is nothing new in this, he says, but the challenge is to make them desire

something more than mere fame. "I don't really feel that this whole idea of being original is valid," says Moffat. "All the kinds of problems and issues that artists deal with are shared. There is no lonely, original genius working completely alone."

The artist and teacher Bernard Cohen, director of the Slade, is one of the most vigorous opponents of the Sewell line. He says that the debate is a phoney one, anyway, and is contemptuous of both the Turner prize and the call to tradition. He is, however, more opposed to the latter than the former. "All this stuff about basic skills comes out of people with minimum talent and little experience," Cohen says.

"An art student must eschew at all costs on the one hand avant-gardism and on the other conventionalism because both are death," Cohen thinks that ideas and technique coincide in the learning process — you cannot teach one first

and expect the other to come after. The student really learns, however, through experiencing problems of his or her own making. "It is all about experience and only experience," he says.

The language employed by both critics and defenders of the Barclays-style artist is always strong, often uncompromising (Sarah Kent, art critic and one of the Barclays judges, recently expressed a desire to dig a deep pit and bury all detractors). But at present the "backlash" has a stronger voice.

Pity the art students, the pawns here. All they really want is to sell their work. Perhaps that is the problem. Both traditionalists and avant-gardists would call the others' approach "selling out", although both would hate to be branded with the language of commercialism. Meanwhile, the NatWest prize provides a breath of fresh air, and I liked some of the paintings.

### ARTS BRIEFING

#### Ave atque vale

TWO of the greatest names in 20th-century ballet — one living, one dead — are the subjects of tributes next month. On April 24, the 95th birthday of Dame Ninette de Valois, founder of the Royal Ballet, is celebrated with a concert in the Festival Hall featuring the orchestra of the Royal Opera House playing highlights from the Tchaikovsky ballets. The three works will be introduced by three of the finest dancers in the Royal Ballet's history: Anthony Dowell, Antoinette Sibley and Lesley Collier. The next day Covent Garden will be the scene of a memorial tribute to the late Rudolf Nureyev with music, poetry and prose. Written applications to the Royal Opera House by April 1.

● **PLAYWRIGHT** Michael Frayn and director Michael Blakemore have proved a potent theatrical team in the past, so expect all eyes this summer to be focused on *Here*. Frayn's first play since the flop *Look Back in Fear*. The new three-character drama opens at the Donmar Warehouse on August 4. No doubt Frayn and Blakemore are hoping it will follow the path of their *Noises Off* and *Benefactors*: first the West End, then Broadway.

#### Arts of workers

A SALE of hundreds of paintings, sculptures and photographs by amateur artists in Preston is being helped by what is thought to be the first grant to a fine art exhibition by trade unions. The North West TUC and Transport and General Workers Union are sponsoring the event with a £1,400 grant. Art Show '93 (at the Harris Museum and Art Gallery until April 24) has also won a further £1,400 under the government business sponsorship scheme because of the union involvement.

#### Last chance...

WHILE everyone else in pop shamelessly celebrates the sounds of the 1970s, Jesus Jones look fearlessly to the future with a modern cocktail of sampled sounds and industrial-strength rock rhythms. They put on a barnstorming show, which you can catch at Rock City, Nottingham (0602 412544) tonight; Astoria, London WC2 (071-434 0403) on Tuesday and Wednesday.

### TELEVISION REVIEW: Lynne Truss

They called it a bitter-sweet story, the new three-part serial *You, Me and It* (BBC 1), but in retrospect it was a mistake to alert one's taste buds beforehand. Last night's first episode, in which Suzanne Burden and James Wilby pegged away drily and fruitlessly at the act of procreation to the loud background ticking of a biological clock, was obviously intended to ring bells with all infertile thirtysomethings in the viewing audience — but if this was its main aim, well, it was hardly an inspiring one. Barbara (Suzanne Burden) is an archetypal career woman. Not the sort to loll in bed with tangled hair. Barbara sits up straight in a fresh nightie, pen in hand and chair on lap, firmly notes her temperature, and in a raised practical voice describes the hormonal changes associated with ovulation. But if Barbara is goal oriented, her husband is not. Heavy hints point to his intrinsic lack of drive. First, his name is Charlie; second, he comes equipped with a symbolic sporting past, in which he catastrophically dropped the ball in a rugby international. The case is clear. Scoring is not his forte.

"Bittersweet" implies an emotional tugging in two different directions, but somehow

#### Babies, wanted or not

the hope and heartbreak, comedy and tragedy of this dull unsympathetic couple got overlooked last night in the practical business of sperm samples, temperature-charts and trips to the clinic. There were some nice shots of Wilby's buttocks, but since baby-making was at issue, not sex, they didn't really count. *Friends and family* were ever-present yet under-written, intrusive in the drama yet with no dramatic life of their own. It began to look horribly plausible that the plight of Barbara and Charlie was just God's way of telling them to get themselves a better series. *Maria's Child* (BBC 2), last night's Screen Two by Malcolm McKay, was obviously scheduled as a wry contrast. Whereas in *You, Me and It* an unconceived baby plays tyrant over the lives of two healthy, grown-up people, in *Maria's Child* the boot is on the other foot. Sexy, pike-thin London nightclub dancer Maria (Yolanda Vazquez), having been

rather crudely knocked up by a passing Spanish flamenco-promoter in the first ten seconds of the play (don't ask), decides after 90 minutes of shilly-shallying and flamenco stomping that she will not be a slave to guilt (stamp! stamp!), and so decides to abort the baby (stamp!), even though — wait for it — it chews to her from inside her body.

This chatting is the main feature of *Maria's Child*. The baby says things such as "I'm fired, Mama" and "Night, night" in a singsong voice — so you might imagine this would make things difficult for the would-be abortionist. One recalls the line from Lewis Carroll's *Alice*, about not cutting someone to whom you've been introduced. But McKay, whose previous BBC plays *Redemption* (with Tom Courtenay) and *The A Woman's Man* trilogy dealt in deeply uncomfortable ways with the unquenchable guilt of child murder, seems here to be promoting the virtually indefensible idea that an unborn baby naturally wants whatever is best for its mum, whether it be apple juice or abortion. "It's all right Maria," says the voice after the operation, "I love you." Perhaps this sort of thing can be called bittersweet too, but only if it means it tastes nasty and confused.

### DANCE REVIEW: John Percival

#### Sylvie Guillem rules, OK?

Sadly, by the time you read this, Sylvie Guillem's two performances in Maurice Béjart's London season will both have happened, so there is no further chance to see the new role he has made for her. Sadly, because *Sissi* — *Anarchist Empress*, is an amazing achievement.

Strictly speaking, this "ballet for one woman" (Béjart's phrase) is not quite a solo, because two other women play her attendants, fetching and carrying costumes, and Olivier Chénut appears intermittently to provide snippets of spoken background information. But all the dancing and acting, and all the attention are Guillem's for half an hour, during which time she holds absolute sway over the role and the audience.

She shows many aspects of the character: capricious, wilful, regal but spontaneous, self-doubting but determined. We see the empress in jewels and Winterhalter ballgown (designed by Gianni Versace); the woman who likes to be solitary and enjoys riding; the romantic who recites Goethe — in German, with a quiet but carrying voice; the simple bed-

**Sissi/Mr C... Sadler's Wells**

dingly than any other portrayal I have seen.

The other work on the opening programme is not one of Béjart's best. The subject of *Mr C...* is, apparently, the impossibility of making a ballet about Charlie Chaplin, and (like Roland Petit in his *Chaplin Danse Avec Nous*), Béjart proves his point only too well.

There are compensations: best of all, the tacit and immensely sympathetic playing of Gill Roman as Chaplin in his real person with greying hair and no moustache. He sensibly projects the brief obligatory appearance as the little tramp more like a symbol, not an impersonation. There are several funny moments amid some corn in an audition sequence.

Annie Chaplin tells beautifully an anecdote about her father leaving America: Charlie Bubbles looks charmingly awed and grateful for his grandfather. Unfortunately they and Béjart share blame for an earnest but self-indulgent text. The work would gain greatly from cutting at least 20 of its 80 minutes. The music is Chaplin's own, and very agreeable.



Sylvie Guillem holds absolute sway over the audience as Empress Elisabeth in *Sissi*, costumed by Versace

## A Rembrandt, a Chippendale, & Buddy Holly's Glasses.



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Christina Koning is intrigued by Philip Roth's bizarre new novel, in which the author encounters an imposter who acts in his name

## Hath a Jew not identity crises?

Readers of Philip Roth will be familiar with his habit of placing himself — or aspects of himself — centre stage in his work, and with his predilection for blurring the distinctions between truth and fiction. Recent books, for example, include *Patrimony*, the author's memoir of his father, *Deception*, a novel about an adulterous relationship, in which the narrator is a middle-aged American writer named Philip who lives (as the writer himself once did) in London; and an autobiographical work, provocatively titled *The Facts*, which turns out to contain a good deal of fiction, and which ends with a letter from Roth's long-standing fictional alter ego, Nathan Zuckerman, in which the character berates the author for his treatment of him in his novels. Roth's new work, *Operation Shylock*, takes this deliberately ambiguous method several stages further, applying it not (as in his controversial early novel) to the anatomising of sexual relationships, but to the no less explosive subject of Zionism and the politics of the Middle East.

In the book's preface, the author tells us that, "for legal reasons", he has been obliged to make certain changes to the work; the extent of these does not emerge until later — by which time, the reader's capacity to suspend disbelief has received a severe battering. To begin with, there is a highly fanciful plot — which even the author himself disowns at one point —

involving double-dealing between agents of the Israeli secret service and the PLO, a lost or stolen million dollar cheque, a beautiful, anti-Semitic Polish nurse and a small-time private detective who fancies himself the new Messiah.

But this apparent implausibility masks an impassioned debate about Jewish identity: a confrontation between the humane traditions of the Diaspora and the realpolitik practised by the state of Israel in defence of its objectives — of which Roth, the celebrated Jewish-American author, is a supporter. Given that this is so, the inclusion in the book of a number of passages denouncing Zionism and all its works is startling, all the more so since they are, ostensibly, the pronouncements of Philip Roth.

It emerges that the "Philip Roth" in question is not the author, but a figure whose physical resemblance to him enables him to masquerade as the latter, in order to disseminate his (diametrically opposed) ideas. The most bizarre of these is his plan to lead the Jews out of Israel and back to Europe, their true homeland; a scheme whose blackly comic outrageousness is matched only by the false Roth's desire to establish workshops for

"recovering anti-semites", along the lines of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Roth — the true Roth, that is — first runs across his double when he is in Jerusalem, on a journalistic assignment for *The New York Times*. Already alerted to the existence of the false Philip Roth by a newspaper article describing the latter's visit to Lech Walesa, he tracks him down at the trial of John Demjanjuk, the Ukrainian-American whose defence against accusations of war crimes is that he has been mistakenly identified as the concentration camp guard, Ivan the Terrible. Set against the life and death issues of this debate on the nature of identity, the scene describing Roth's confrontation with Roth has a farcical edge, with the infuriated author trying to shake off his unwelcome admir-

**OPERATION SHYLOCK**  
A Confession  
By Philip Roth  
Jonathan Cape, £14.99



er, the "fan" who admires him so much that he wants to be him.

Further confrontations are to follow. The false Roth (whom the author nicknames "Moishe Pipik" — or Moses Belyubunov) sends his voluptuous mistress, Wanda Jane Possesski, to try and win his famous double to the cause of "Diasporism". With some reluctance, Roth rebuffs her sexual overtures, but is unable to dispel the unconscious fascination which she — and "Pipik" — have exerted over him. He allows himself to be mistaken for his alter ego on a number of occasions, and even starts spouting his ideas as if they were his own.

An encounter with a former friend, George Zaid, who may or may not work as an informer for the PLO, gives him the opportunity for more "Jewish mischief":

Roth the author and vociferous champion of the state of Israel finds himself, in the occupied territories, holding forth on the virtues of cultural assimilation, and the need for the Jews to return to their "roots" in central Europe.

After escaping death at an Israeli roadblock, through another case of mistaken identity, Roth returns to his Jerusalem hotel room to find his *doppelgänger* in residence. It is at this point that the narrative opens out from its initial preoccupation with "Jewish antinomies" into an investigation of the fundamental duality of human identity. The "other Philip Roth", it transpires, is a Jewish private detective from Chicago, whose life has intersected at crucial points with the author's. Now dying of cancer, he longs to make one last contribution to history, with Roth-the-author as his mouthpiece. In this sense, his impersonation is an attempt to control the latter, to make him a character in a fiction of someone else's devising.

The author, naturally enough, resists this. And yet, before long, he finds himself unwittingly drawn into yet another scenario, in which he is recruited by Mossad for an intelligence-gathering operation

whose code-name, "Shylock", epitomises the ambiguity which is the book's main theme. For this is a world of mirror-images, in which nothing is but what is not, and in which all the characters, in one sense or another, incorporate their opposites. Roth himself, the author who flirts with ideas of becoming a man of action; Zaid, the urbane cosmopolitan turned nationalist fanatic Wanda Jane, the rabid Jew-hater who falls in love with a Jew; and, perhaps most enigmatic of all, Smilesburger, the elderly Holocaust survivor who turns out to be the lynchpin of the whole enterprise.

It is Smilesburger, Roth's "handler", who commissions the work, we are reading, when, by way of inducing the author to offer his services to Mossad, he suggests that the experience might find its way into a book. When Roth takes him at his word and writes an exposé of his involvement in Israeli politics, Smilesburger intervenes once more, suggesting that, for his own good, the author should jettison the final chapter — a detailed account of "Operation Shylock" — and append a disclaimer indicating that the rest of the book is fiction. Well, the disclaimer is there, and the final chapter is missing, so the reader must judge for himself. And this conundrum, intriguing as it is, is the least interesting thing about a book which manages to be so absorbing on such a wide range of subjects — not least the art of fiction.

## This great spectacle of art

Inquisitive readers should not be put off by the title of John Shearman's latest book, for it neither celebrates E.M. Forster nor promotes credit cards. Instead, it is a study of a theme seldom explored in accounts of Renaissance art: the spectator.

Of course, virtually all works of art are intended to be seen, but Shearman is chiefly concerned with what he terms "transitive" works of art, those that imply a direct object or recipient of action. As he admits, the idea behind the inquiry is not new; Burckhardt observed long ago that the lesson given in Bernardino Luini's *Christ among the Doctors* is addressed to us rather than the rabbi. The glances of angels and gesticulations of saints in altarpieces are also predicated upon our presence. Such examples have elicited random comments in the literature on art, but the phenomenon as a whole rarely merits attention.

Only *Connect* was conceived as the Mellon Lectures for the National Gallery, in Washington, and their printed form adheres to a conversational tone. The topics range from the "more engaged" spectator to the interaction of spectator and artefact in altarpieces, portraits, domes, history painting, and the like. In confronting these topics, the author deals with two subsidiary themes: on the one hand, he is concerned with the fashionable obsession with methodology and contempt for historicism; on the other, he wants to show that a proper knowledge of the historical context of a work of art offers the best hope for decoding messages from the past.

As the author of a brilliant work on Mannerism, in which literature and music were employed to explain characteristic

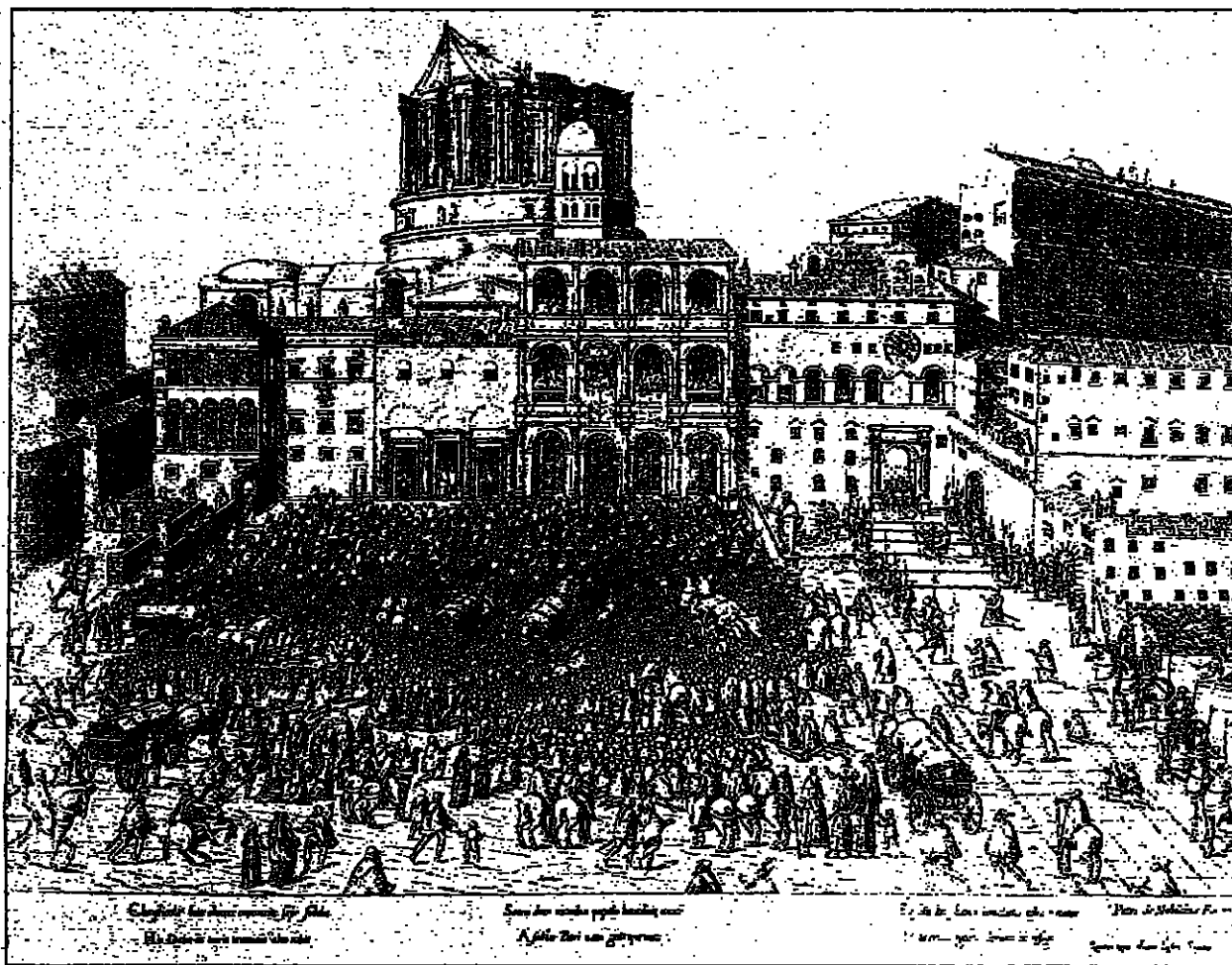
Bruce Boucher

**ONLY CONNECT...**  
Art and the Spectator  
in the Italian  
Renaissance  
By John Shearman  
Princeton University Press,  
£35

forms, Shearman is eminently qualified for his task, and the text is full of *aperçus*. His premise of the more engaged spectator functions best where the parameters are clearly defined, as with those chapters dealing with portraiture and domes. Portraits are the spectator art form *par excellence*, with a rich literary tradition that bolsters the theory of active participation by a third party. Here Shearman weaves a brilliant account of poetry and painting immortalising the sitter.

With domes, there are comparable musings about foregrounding and the placement of images contingent upon the spectator's role. The account of Correggio's fresco for the Benedictine church of San Giovanni Evangelista in Parma is richly textured. The author discusses the shifting viewpoints of St John's vision of Christ and the apostles in relation to the spectator on the threshold of crossing the square and to the monks gathered beneath the dome, contemplating the presence of the Lord and his angels.

Only *Connect* represents an important contribution to debates on art history and provides stimulating reading for specialists and non-specialists alike. Though user-friendly, it is not unproblematic. The argument shifts uneasily between questions of an implied spectator to more general remarks about the artist's intentions. Both are worthwhile



This 1555 engraving of a papal blessing at St Peter's shows the dome still unfinished. The crowds assembled at the largest building site of the day bear witness to one of the few Renaissance public occasions to endure into modern times. From *Rome Reborn: The Vatican Library and Renaissance Culture*, edited by Anthony Grafton (Yale, £40)

topics, but they are not necessarily the same thing.

Then, too, the author cannot resist the kind of source-hunting which often makes art historians seem only marginally more intellectual than stamp collectors. To say that Giovanni Bellini had a sculpture by Donatello in mind when composing his San Giobbe altarpiece hardly illuminates the creative processes

of the artist and runs the risk of unduly emphasising one work in the genesis of another. A lost prototype of Aegean Turkey is posited for angels supporting a dome in Correggio's *Madonna di San Giorgio*, a solution both hackneyed and not really sensitive to the artist's intentions in designing a fictive dome. Sometimes, too, the author appears to believe that Renaissance art-

ists and their patrons had the knowledge and visual resources of a modern scholar, sitting in a well-stocked photographic library.

Much of the material treated here was originally published by John Shearman in individual articles that remain models of method and creative imagination. I am not sure that they gain by being reworked in this fashion, and

isolating one element, the spectator's role, risks distorting the complex discourse of a work of art. But, whether one agrees with the author or not, *Only Connect* offers food for thought and the occasional vivifying association.

Bruce Boucher's book *The Sculpture of Jacopo Sansovino* (Yale) was joint winner of the Premio Salimbeni, 1992.

### CRIME FICTION

**Degree of Guilt**  
By Richard North Parson  
Hutchinson, £14.99

FAMOUS novelist stabbed by equally famous television presenter in hotel room. The accused persuades her ex-husband, lawyer Christopher Paget, to defend her, claiming the killing was self-defence fending off attempted rape. Paget's sidekick, looking for evidence of the novel's sexual aggression, discovers layers of intimate secrets about victim and accused alike, focused on dead film-star's lewd tapes. Each day of the trial brings new revelations and a dollop of forensic pyrotechnics. Exceptionally skilful, high-tension, full of surprises, courtroom drama slightly diminished by the over-presence of the ex-couple's wimpy son.

**Shadow Play**  
By Frances Wyfield  
Bantam, £14.99

CROWN Prosecutor Helen West, upset at the rocky relationship with her policeman Geoffrey Bailey, finds more to moan about when a petty but sinister crook called Logo is, for the umpteenth time, acquitted of crimes of which he is guilty. Back at prosecution HQ Rose, an insubordinate, promiscuous clerk meanders unknowingly into danger. Wyfield leads us gently, then frighteningly, into a claustrophobic world where characters are never quite what they seem and evil is always lurking. Helen West battles through with grace and intelligence, but little happiness. Not so much a whodunit as an under-the-bedclothes oh-my-god heart-stopper.

**Missing Joseph**  
By Elizabeth George  
Bantam, £14.99

WHAT a pity that George still doesn't get her police procedures right. She writes extremely well, plots brilliantly, and reaches an emotional

level deeper than most of her fellow bloodsuckers. An American, she used to be weak at English dialogue and portrayal of class manners, but that has improved greatly. So why court readers' irritation? Anyway, this one has the soul-tormented aristocrat Inspector Lynley using up his leave to investigate the apparent poisoning of an Anglican priest in a small Lancashire community. As usual, a captivating cast of complex, motive-filled characters contribute to a long, largely satisfying read.

**Bent Grasses**  
By Frank Palmer  
Constable, £13.99

PETTY arsonist poisoned in prison, probably mistakenly. In the next cell is super-grass Hegon, who knows where the loot from the big heist is hidden. He must have been helped by a copper, Detective Inspector Jack Jackson has to discover which of his colleagues is bent, before Hegon is bumped off or sprung. Exciting procedural with tone of action, authentic cop-station dialogue and a terrific series of twists.

**Defending Billy Ryan**  
By George V. Higgins  
Little, Brown, £13.99

THE story almost doesn't matter. Not a great deal happens. Ageing, down-at-heel lawyer Jerry Kennedy, the narrator, is asked (because no top attorney would touch it) to take on the defence of a local big-wig on charges of bribery and corruption. Kennedy tells the story of the trial quietly and poetically, interrupting it with slices of reminiscence and reflection, often irrelevant to the main theme. Why this low-key, inconsequential tale should be quite so rewarding to read is difficult to explain, except by stating that Higgins doing people talking is one of the joys of American fiction.

MARCEL BERLINS

**DAUGHTERS OF THE HOUSE**  
By Michelle Roberts  
Virago, £5.99

LÉONIE and Thérèse are cousins who seem more like sisters. They share childhood holidays and girlish confidences until the rivalry of adolescence and older secrets and deceptions force them apart — Léonie to explore her sexuality, Thérèse towards a more spiritual kind of ecstasy — and polarize them for a lifetime. Roberts brilliantly evokes the pervasive mixture of ancient superstition and religion influencing a post-war French village, both defensive and ashamed of the role it played during the German occupation. *Daughters of the House* was shortlisted for the 1992 Booker Prize and has just won the W.H. Smith Literary Award.

**THE CHILDREN OF MEN**  
By P.D. James  
Faber, £8.99

OMEGA came in 1995, when the last child on earth was born. Now, in 2031, Theo, from his loveless house in Oxford, contemplates a sterile society, ruled by his cousin Xan, Warden of England. In this bleak world, where the Isle of Man is a penal colony and the old are put to death, he is drawn into a group of libertarians, the Five Fishes, becoming witness and accomplice to martyrdom and murder and, in the end, a miracle. Clearly informed by the author's deep Christian theology, this is essentially about resistance and redemption. It gathers pace and conviction, but the overall tone is solemn rather than chilling.

**WOMEN OF SAND AND MYRRH**  
By Hanan Al-Shaykh  
Quartet, £6.95

IN the desert of a nameless Arab country, the lives of four lost women touch and interweave: Suha, bored and frustrated, escaping the war in Lebanon; Tamr, the child-wife who goes on hunger-strike for an education; Suzanne, no housewife from Texas, looking for a man; Nur, sexually manipulative, whose self-absorption borders on madness. Air-conditioning and the fridge have done little to change a culture of censorship, rivalry, and superstition, where the female is both devil and victim. In different ways, with chilling lack of insight, these women seek to be made whole by anything but themselves.

**LOVING BRECHT**  
By Elaine Feinstein  
Seepre, £5.99

THE central character in this elegant piece of fiction is a young Jewish singer, Frieda Bloom, who joins the caravan of women around Bertolt Brecht. Frieda falls in love with Brecht in Weimar Berlin, but the troubled times force them to flee. She goes to Stalinist Russia and finally to the United States. Though Frieda struggles to gain her emotional freedom, their relationship lasts until Brecht's death in the 1950s. This is a brilliant study of attraction and of Brecht's character — clever, charismatic and manipulative.

Contributors: Katherine Bergen, Sue Gee, Hazel Leslie, Brian Morton.

## From cavaliers to gondoliers

Elisabeth Schumann was one of the first sopranos to sing the role of Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*. She was 22 and a member of the Hamburg State Opera, which at the very last moment gave her the role over Lotte Lehmann, her rival and later close friend. Rightly so. It was not just the silvery timbre in the voice, but the cherubic and almost innocent looks that made her ideal for the "sweet child" Richard Strauss and his librettist Hofmannsthal had created.

The Schumann charms had also attracted the attention of two very different men. One was an architect, Walter Purriz, whom she married shortly after that Hamburg premiere. The other was a young conductor at the house, Otto Klemperer. Within a year Schumann and Klemperer had eloped, but Purriz, whose duelling scar on the left cheek testified that he was no wimp in matters matrimonial, took his revenge. He booked himself a seat in the middle of the front row for a *Lohengrin* — of all operas — which Klemperer was to conduct. As the maestro took his stand for Act III's Wedding March, Purriz called on him to turn and slashed him twice across the face with a riding crop. This was the stuff of which Hollywood's musical biopics were once made: George Sanders and Dirk Bogarde, stand by.

Thereafter Elisabeth Schumann's life carried less melodrama. She returned to Purriz for a while and then left him for the conductor Carl Alwin, who was probably the best male influence in her life. He brought her close to Strauss, both musically and personally, turning her into the great interpreter of his lieder. Schumann, whose voice was never large, was wise to confine her operatic roles mainly to sourest parts and was never tempted by Strauss's heavy-weight parts.

Close to the peak of her career Schumann abandoned Alwin for, of all people, a Viennese dermatologist, Hans Kruger. She had gone to consult him not on her own skin but about a rash on her pet peldness. Sorry, Strauss did not forgive her. When several years later they met again in England after a war she had spent mainly in America and he in Europe, Strauss hardly recognised her.

Elisabeth Schumann's biography has been written by her son, Gerd, and translated by his granddaughter, Joy. Inevitably, it has something of the feel of a family album. The



Elisabeth Schumann: face and voice ideal for Sophie

prose is often quaint and musty, with Gerd Purriz, always referring to himself in the third person or by the family nickname Schuck, the stance is always supportive. The family archives have been ransacked and Schumann's generally glittering career is well-chronicled through quantities of "write-ups" — a revolting word, but Gerd Purriz would doubtless argue that he makes little use of any available write-downs.

Filial affection rules. But quite a lot comes across of the inability of Schumann, who quickly acquired the charm of her adopted city of Vienna, to hold onto the right man. She was expert at choosing what was right for her voice, generally inept at selecting who was right for her life. The final years before her early death at 63 were sad ones.

Michael Finch's *Gilbert and Sullivan* recalls those comfortable Sunday evening

radio serials on the old Home Service under the title of *The G & S Story*, or something similar. The familiar anecdotes about the quarrel over the magic lozenge plot or the new carpet at the Savoy were trotted out, interspersed with songs from the shows. Alas, Finch's narrative does not provide that latter bonus — it would have been much enlivened by a couple of accompanying CDs.

He is content to tread over the old ground, interspersing the story of the partnership with laborious accounts of the plot of each opera. Gilbert's words get a lot of attention and Sullivan's music virtually no appraisal at all. But from a biographer unable to spell Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* correctly — or for that matter the name of Meyerbeer — that perhaps is just as well. Audrey Williamson covered the ground better 40 years ago.

Do not be deceived by the title *Saturday Afternoons at the Old Met*. This is not the famous and much-missed music hall in the Edgware Road, but the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Paul Jackson has rescued from the archives the Saturday broadcasts from 1931 to 1950 and comments perceptively on all he can get his ear to. For anyone who wants to know how Björling was singing in '49 (exceedingly well) or when Flagstad gave her last performance at the House, this is the book. The photographs are exemplary.

John Higgins is an opera critic for The Times.

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#### ● CUMBRIA

**English National Ballet**  
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#### THE TIMES

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# INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

## Small not always beautiful

Class size should not be the only criterion to measure the effectiveness of a school's teaching.

**Vivian Anthony**  
wants a wider view

Recession has hit independent schools in the United States in the same way as schools in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Parents have been finding it difficult to afford the fees, and maintained schools are experiencing even more stringent restrictions on finance.

If pupils were taught in larger classes, teacher costs would be reduced and fee increases could be kept to a minimum or even reversed, thus expanding the income group able to afford independent education. Alternatively, scarce resources could be used in other much-needed ways.

The publicity given to examination results in Britain recently tells us little about the way they were achieved. We do know something about pupil/teacher ratios, but at best these provide only an indication of likely class size. The pupil/teacher ratio in 1992 was 11:1 in independent schools and 17:1 in maintained secondary schools. As with all general statistics, these hide a multitude of variations.

Whatever the ratio, the more lessons taught by the teachers in a week, the smaller the class will tend to be. This class contact time varies between 50 and 85 per cent of a full timetable in different schools. Arguments rage about "reasonable teaching load" but, in general, the greater the range of other responsibilities, the less the teacher's class contact time. So, in boarding schools, where there are house duties and a wide range of activities outside class, the teaching load is traditionally lower than in day schools. Thus the pupil/teacher ratio is also lower, and with class sizes that are also smaller, there is no doubt that excellent results are achieved by these boarding schools: Winchester, Eton, Tonbridge, Shrewsbury and Ampleforth, for instance, appeared in most tables of top schools by academic results. P/T ratios varied from 1:6.4 (Ampleforth) to 1:9.1 (Eton), and the average A-level points (A=10, B=9, etc.) varied between 29 (Winchester) and 23 (Ampleforth).

The independent day schools have an equally good academic record, but the class sizes and pupil/teacher ratios are much larger. Schools like King's, Chester, King Edward's, Birmingham, Bradford Grammar, Manchester Grammar and Newcastle Royal Grammar School



Quality before numbers: children in the classroom at Newland House School, Twickenham, receive the teacher's close personal attention

all had average points scores above 23 and achieved these with pupil/teacher ratios of more than 1:13. This is a major factor in the differences in fees between the two types of independent schools.

Up to GCSE, the highly academic day schools often have classes of up to 30 pupils and almost always more than 25 and still achieve results which compare well with any schools in this country or abroad. Without detracting from the excellent teaching and other quality provision of these schools, much can be explained by the highly selective nature of the entry. Children of similar high ability benefit from being in larger classes because they find more competition and other stimuli. Moreover, teachers find that the greater interaction enlivens the class. Where there is a greater spread of ability, the class needs to be smaller if the teacher is to provide the various kinds of stimuli needed to match the different abilities of the pupils. Remedial work has to be done with very small groups indeed. All this can produce the misleading impression that small classes produce poorer results. One reason why larger classes have been associated with better results is that schools are willing to put their able pupils into larger classes and these pupils have higher levels of educational aspirations.

Effective class size depends on the teaching method used, and schools have been unable or unwilling to provide enough flexibility of arrangements to give full effect to this principle. Lectures can be given to large groups but are little used in schools. On the other hand, the special needs of an individual student may be best dealt with outside class.

### Effective class size depends on the teaching method used

Effective class size may also vary by subject or activity. Practical work in science or technology, intensive oral work in languages or English, music tuition and the like are best done in small groups. Private study, an under-used activity in many schools, is best done in libraries, where little if any teacher time is needed.

Of course, the most important factor is the effectiveness and good control of the teacher: where there is inspirational teaching and good discipline, coupled with high motivation on the part of the pupil, classes can be both large and successful. Smaller classes may be easier to organise and control but will only be more effective

if teachers adapt their teaching methods. Some research has shown that, in practice, teachers of larger classes adopt what appear to be more effective teaching methods. There is growing interest in the use of value-added measurement of different means of achieving results. However, children come to our schools to develop a wide range of talents and not only those relevant to the classroom. Attention to their spiritual, moral, cultural and physical needs requires time, resources, energy and enthusiasm, all of which may not show up in academic results but may have an even more profound effect on their future lives. The more we demand of teachers in class the less they will be able to deliver in other ways.

In seeking smaller classes, parents reflect back the comments of teachers. Teachers claim enhanced motivation and more satisfaction from teaching smaller classes, partly because they are less demanding in terms of preparation, marking and control. They believe that the attention they are able to give to individual pupils is important, but we need to know more about the ways in which the "individual attention" produces better results.

For changes in class size to significantly affect results, the changes have to be very large. While common sense suggests that small groups are needed for the more sophisticated work at

A level, it is significant that when students leave school to go to university, much of the teaching is done in full lecture theatres, supplemented by occasional seminars of about 20 students. When value-added techniques are perfected, it will be interesting to see whether our present allocation of teaching resources which favours the sixth form is justified. The Audit Commission is convinced that substantial economies can be achieved by insisting on a certain minimum class size. If all A-level sets of fewer than ten were eliminated, £180 million could be saved in six forms.

Clearly, there is no single optimum class size. In international league tables, Korea achieves some of the best results with classes of about 45 pupils. Different class sizes are needed for different situations. They vary with pupils' age, ability, activity, with teaching method, school type, social circumstances, and so on. However, schools seeking to achieve substantial cost reductions, or even engaged in a struggle for survival, can contemplate marginal increases in class size without fear of inevitable academic decline. What it does to the range of activities on which a broad education is built, or to teachers' morale and stress, is another matter.

© The author was headmaster of Collier's School 1976-1990 and is now the secretary of the Headmasters' Conference. The views expressed are his own.

## Heed a word from the wise

Counsellors help to take the pressure off children, staff and parents

The requirement of the Children Act for "independent listeners" in boarding schools has encouraged heads to consider the role which counsellors might play in the residential environment. Many are reluctant to draw in outsiders, preferring to deal with unhappy or problem children within the confines of the house or the wider arena of the school. Traditionally, only in extreme cases might a psychologist have been wheeled in to deal with a child whose problems seemed beyond the expertise of school staff, or the child may have been wheeled out.

Heads and parents tend to view counselling with suspicion. It seems to provide poor value for money; substantial bills are paid in return for silence. The counsellor undertakes to talk to the child in private and what passes between them is entirely confidential. School and parents may receive little feedback, perhaps a few general recommendations regarding further action, but no detailed report, and whatever is communicated must be sanctioned by the child — the client. Many parents who have suffered a breakdown in communication with their adolescent offspring feel further excluded by these secret, and often expensive, chats, which they envisage include a meticulous raking over of their faults and the child's grievances.

Similarly, the dedicated, and probably overworked, member of house staff who has been mopping up the child's distress and serving as a reliable emotional prop on a daily basis may question the counsellor's effectiveness when the client returns to the house exhausted and uncommunicative after a counselling session.

However, in schools where counsellors have been accepted for some time, either as part-time members of staff or as consultants, the benefits for pupils and staff are recognisable. Private and concentrated attention, uncluttered by the need for discipline or parity, or by previous knowledge or relationships in or out of school, can enable children to talk freely. With the assurance of confidentiality they can express, untravelling and come to terms with anxiety and confusion. Some clients can learn to delay emotional explosions until their regular counselling session, which benefits those who have to deal with them in the classroom, house or home. Often the child's

academic work-discipline improves accordingly. Delicate and very personal matters, particularly those relating to adolescents' emerging sexuality — taboo or embarrassing subjects to present to adults — can be discussed with a counsellor who has managed to establish trust.

Such delicate matters need the attention of an experienced counsellor. Much more so do those which are life-threatening, illegal, or both. Consider the dilemma which occurs when a client who has built up sufficient faith in the trustworthiness of the counsellor confides that he seriously intends to make, and perhaps has already made, an attempt at suicide, or that she is being abused, bullied, or is regularly taking drugs. Can the counsellor drive away from the school safe in the knowledge that he has been confided in and done his best to prevent the client from causing further self-inflicted harm, leaving behind those unwitting members of staff, and parents, who may be required to deal with any subsequent event involving the client, and the complex and unpredictable effects that such an event may have on the school community?

Counselling children, particularly in boarding schools, requires clearly established rules and margins of responsibility, which must be discussed initially between the head and the counsellor before he is appointed, and between counsellor and client in the early stages. If a good relationship has been established between counsellor and client, the child will often feel able to give the counsellor permission to break confidence and talk to parents and staff.

The counselling role is one which involves such enormous personal responsibility that the right kind of support and guidance must be provided for the counsellor himself. Every appointee should have access to a strong and experienced supervisor, independent of the school, who is familiar with the erratic behaviour of adolescents, regular supervision being a basic tenet of all sound counselling practice.

Trapped within the necessary confines of confidentiality, the counsellor needs the objective guidance which such a supervisor can provide, and the supervisor, via the counsellor, provides a safety net for all parties concerned.

AVRIL HARDIE

Involvement in community projects can benefit school pupils as much as local people and organisations

## Lessons in service with a confident smile

On most days of the week teenagers from schools all over the country are out in their local communities, helping in primary schools, old people's homes, hospitals and nursing homes, clearing footpaths, tidying up litter, or providing outdoor rescue services.

Many of the volunteers come from some of the most famous schools in the country: for a variety of reasons, community service is most highly developed in the independent schools. Mike Bolton, a deputy head at Sevenoaks school in Kent, who is organising a community service conference next weekend for schools belonging to the Headmasters' Conference (HMC), says the main reason might be that as six or seven-day operations these schools have more time available, or it might simply be a question of resources.

Mr Bolton says: "Nobody really knows what is happening in the maintained sector, but I am concerned that community service is being squeezed out, as it has always been on the fringe. I hope it will become central to the curriculum, but there is a danger that it will become marginalised with the time demands of the national curriculum on state schools."

Community service began to be taken seriously in schools in the early 1960s, with many finding space for it in the curriculum. Groups were set up to co-ordinate activities, and some schools formed close links with voluntary organisations. Community service is still flourishing but few of the early experiments remain, says Mr Bolton.

One of the exceptions is in Sevenoaks, where the Voluntary Service Unit involves about 800 young people over 14 from 20 local schools. The unit is run by a full-time teacher/co-ordinator appointed by the local education authority and is now so well established that it can influence community policy.

The unit volunteers have campaigned strongly for the

rights of the elderly and questioned the implications of community care for the mentally handicapped," says Mr Bolton. "Both the local Cheshire home and a summer holiday play scheme for young children stem directly from the unit's work. The unit also provides a point of contact between the town's state and independent schools and an opportunity for all pupils — the academic, the unacademic, the handicapped and able-bodied — to work together."

While Mr Bolton believes that community service should have "a place of honour" in the curriculum, he is not convinced it should be compulsory. Every Thursday afternoon, about 250 Sevenoaks pupils voluntarily work with the handicapped and the elderly, the sick and the frail and run an after-school club for children with parents at work.

Community service as an integral part of education began in a major way with Kurt Hahn, founder of Gordonstoun, in Scotland, who believed that education should enable children fully to discover their powers and to use those powers in the service to the community. Today, Gordonstoun has a wide range of services, with the best known being its fire service, which during term time is part of the Grampian Fire Brigade and is frequently called to fires and other emergencies.



Fired with enthusiasm: Gordonstoun, in Scotland, has its own fire service

The school's tradition of adventure and the outdoors is also followed in the coastguard service, mountain rescue team, special boat service, canoe guards, and inshore rescue. Less glamorous but equally important work is done by the conservation, and community services.

The school's conservation service has opened the local coastal footpath from Hopeman to Lossiemouth and now keeps it clear of gorse and safe to use. Beaches and caves are cleaned and the service keeps the school grounds clear of litter. Perhaps surprisingly, the largest group at Gordonstoun is the 70-strong community service which helps in the local community with the sick, the mentally and physically

handicapped, the homeless, the old and the young. Schools are anxious to ensure that the right balance is achieved between service and enjoyment. Anthony Montgomery, director of services at Gordonstoun, says: "We are very conscious that many make their choice of service on the basis of how enjoyable it will be and what their friends are choosing. They tend to go for the option which will be safe and predictable and to be fearful of taking on commitments which may impinge upon academic obligations."

At the other end of the country, Astmar Oldson, head of community service at Bradford College, Berkshire, says: "There is a general desire to be of assistance to others, an interest in meeting people outside the school environ-

ment. The reality is sometimes enjoyable, for example in visiting local pensioners, and sometimes it is distressing, for example when helping at a school for the severely mentally handicapped."

"Rural boarding schools can be rather isolated and community service can help to integrate the school with local communities, such as by contact with other schools through drama groups. Taking part in community service may also give students a chance to achieve a sense of self-worth through helping others."

About half of all independent schools are involved in activities with the community, and about 10 per cent are in joint ventures with local state schools, such as sharing classes or teachers.

Typical of such arrangements are those between Eltham College in south London and the three local primary schools. Facilities such as the computer room, the sports field and swimming pool are open to the schools, which in return allow sixth-formers to spend one afternoon a week acting as classroom assistants as part of their community service programme. Eltham's community service programme also involves about 90 lower-sixth-form boys and girls helping in old people's homes, hospitals, clubs for the handicapped and the local Cheshire home.

Malcolm Green, the headmaster, says: "On the personal and educational level there is an enormous amount to be gained. Teenage pupils are given the advantage of getting out into the environment and the benefits are immense. The theme is service, but they actively enjoy helping other people, young and old, outside their own experience."

"The pupils here have a genuine feeling of doing something creative and constructive on a personal level. They gain enormously by being given an awareness of what humanity is about. I do not see this as patronising and neither do they."

During the past year, 22 pupils from Christ's Hospital, Horsham, in Sussex, have redecorated a community sports hall in Romania, while boys from Winchester College have helped at a school for children with severe learning difficulties, built a pergola to provide a play area, seating and shade for a primary school and organised a sculpture exhibition for the blind and partially sighted.

This weekend's HMC conference at the Royal Northern College of Music will examine ways in which community service can be further improved by schools learning from each other.

Mr Bolton says: "Most HMC schools subscribe to the importance of community involvement, as indeed would most maintained schools. We have moved on from dogooding to realising that community service can have a really distinctive part to play in the education of young people. "Community service gives them responsibility and, at its best, is really challenging, adding to self-awareness among pupils, who can make a real contribution. It is about hard experience, contribution, participation and contact with the adult world. It is also very hard work."

DAVID TYTLER

## A Bill of Rights or a lost opportunity?



Baroness Warnock fears that the new education legislation will not be a step forward for children with special needs.

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# EDUCATION

This week further education and sixth-form colleges will sever their historic ties with town halls. How will they meet the challenge?

## Moment of truth for colleges

Further education was once regarded as the Cinderella service, but from now on it will be difficult to ignore, says Peter Scott

Britain's further education colleges come of age on Thursday. The ties that have bound them to local government since the 1889 Technical Instruction Act first allowed public money to be spent on technical education will finally be broken. They will become free-standing institutions no longer dependent on the town hall for their budgets, which instead will come from the new Further Education Funding Council (FEFC).

For too long further education has been the Cinderella of the education service. Local education authorities never had a statutory responsibility to provide further education, as they do in the case of schools. Historically, British industry and commerce placed a lower value on vocational training than their continental European, and now world-wide, competitors. For most politicians, civil servants and other opinion-formers, who passed effortlessly from their independent or grammar schools to university, further education was a lost book. And it has been an ideology-free zone, fortunately so in terms of educational commonsense but less fortunately in terms of political visibility.

After this week, further education will be hard to ignore. The immediate outcome will be a much higher public profile as the newly independent colleges compete to make their corporate mark. Further education colleges will be recognised as key institutions, in local and regional economies as well as education systems. A less immediate but in the long run more dramatic change will be the transformation of the old-fashioned "tech" into the 21st-century community college.

Four factors come together to make this week's reform inevitable. First, the former polytechnics, further education's big brothers, paved the way four years ago when they became independent corporations (and now universities). The queue of schools applying to opt-out lengthens weekly. To have left further education colleges, with budgets ten times bigger than that of the average school, under local education authorities, which the government seems determined to undermine, would have made no sense.

Second, Britain has at last woken up to the need to promote a skills revolution in order to compete in a high-technology world economy. Attempts to establish a coherent framework for vocational education have

built up to a crescendo, beginning with the industrial training boards of the 1960s, moving through the Manpower Services Commission (later the Training Agency) in the 1970s and 1980s and now culminating in the employer-led Training and Enterprise Councils. Further education colleges are at the heart of this gathering skills revolution.

Third, most colleges have already moved a long way from the old "tech" pattern, partly because the supply of traditional apprentice and other day or block-release students has dried up as a result of shifts in youth employment (and unemployment) and the occupational structure of the modern economy.

Fourth, further education has established much closer links with the rest of the educational system. It is no longer a self-contained vocational world. Many 16-year-olds now leave school to study for A-levels or other qualifications in further education, regardless of whether or not local authorities have formally established "tertiary colleges" by merging FE colleges and school sixth-forms. Colleges are also offering special courses to prepare non-standard students, adults or from ethnic minorities, for higher education. And increasingly universities are franchising the early years of degree courses to local colleges.

The newly independent FE sector faces three main challenges. The first is to ensure the managerial and financial integrity of more than 600 colleges. Two years ago many did not even manage their own payroll and all have experienced decades of administrative dependence on town halls.

Few people expect many, or any, FE colleges to have serious difficulties, despite the multi-million pound deficits run up in recent years by some long-established universities with elaborate administrative infrastructures. When the former polytechnics were freed from local authority control in 1989, Cassandra-style prophecies of financial disaster and managerial collapse proved to be wide of the mark. And the same team that managed the polytechnic transition, Dr William Stubbs and Mr Roger McClure, is in charge again, as the FEFC's chief executive and director of finance respectively.

The second challenge is to devise a workable funding system. Under local authorities, FE colleges have



Hands-on experience: students at work on an aircraft maintenance course at Barry College, Wales

been funded according to the number of students they enroll. But many students drop out of their courses and, because entry is much less selective than in schools or universities, failure rates are higher. Also the pattern of courses in further education is exceptionally complicated, a thicket of vocational qualifications disguised by acronyms such as BTEC, NVQs, RSA and CGLL.

Faced with the formidable task of allocating £2.5 billion among its colleges and in anticipation of a 25 per cent increase in student numbers over the next three years, the FEFC has tried to devise a better funding system, which tries to reflect what happens to students while they are on their courses and also the outcomes of their efforts. In a consultation document, *Funding Learning*, the council has outlined six options, ranging from slicing close to the status quo to introducing a full-blown system of vouchers, or training credits, which students could "spend" at any FE college.

But the third and most difficult challenge is to establish a clearer identity for the new FE sector. Part of

the difficulty here arises because the FEFC will fund not only existing FE colleges but also sixth-form colleges, which traditionally have been closely allied to the schools. It will also become responsible for large parts of adult education with its distinctively liberal traditions, very different from the old "tech". So a new and more comprehensive identity has to be moulded for this expanded FE sector — not an identity which compromises the historical strengths of British further education.

Part of the difficulty, however, arises from uncertainty about the future direction of the new sector. Although American community colleges offer a seductive model, the fit is not exact. FE colleges are both more vocational, more rooted in industrial and commercial needs, and they also enroll large numbers of 16 to 19-year-olds who in the United States would still be in a high school (or on the street). The "new FE" has broadened the scope of British further education and its links with universities are growing. But further education remains a

distinct sector, rather than the first stage of a mass higher education system.

On the other hand, FE colleges are already more comprehensive than apparently similar institutions in the rest of Europe. In The Netherlands, for example, 16-plus vocational schools are specifically designed for students who have followed the non-academic stream through secondary education. Here, in contrast, FE colleges produce some of our brightest A-level students. So regression to the old "tech", the "new FE", the sixth-form college and the adult education institute into a new kind of institution — "community college" — is an almost inevitable short-hand despite the reservations expressed earlier in this article. The success of this made-in-Britain community college will be measured by its capacity to meet the twin demands of the skills and access revolutions which will shape all British post-school education into the 21st century.

Peter Scott is professor of education at the University of Leeds. He is a former chairman of the governing body of South Thames College in Wandsworth.

## An attack of the jitters

Sixth-form colleges give a mixed reception to the harsh new world

The 116 sixth-form colleges were the surprise inclusion in the sector to be granted independence this week. The colleges themselves had not sought separation from their local authorities and many were initially nervous at the prospect.

While many further education colleges sprawl across several sites and attract students of all types and ages, the sixth-form colleges tend to be much smaller and more like the schools they once were. Most have been funded relatively generously, and may find it difficult to adapt to the competitive new world.

The decision to make the sixth-form colleges independent seemed to take everyone by surprise. The education department even had to ask the principals for a list of colleges because they had never been identified as a distinct group in the government's statistics.

Some principals say they would still prefer to remain with their local authority as long as they had financial autonomy, but most are enthusiastic about the new opportunities opening up. The government wants 25 per cent more students enrolled in three years, and gave the new sector the lion's share of extra funding for education in the last Autumn Statement.

Although the big further education colleges may find it easier to juggle provision to expand at such a rate, the sixth-form colleges do not intend to be left behind. Some have grown by 40 per cent in recent years, taking students from the independent sector as well as state schools, as some outstanding examination results have enhanced their reputation among parents as well as teenagers.

At Strodes College, in Egham, Surrey, for example, a third of the students came from independent schools and numbers have risen by 30 per cent in three years. Pamela Maryfield, the principal, says: "We all feel we can spread our wings while still responding to our local community. We do not want to be seen as just an A-level academy."

Like other colleges, Strodes has widened its menu of courses considerably in recent years, offering a range of vocational programmes and catering for students with special needs. Mrs Maryfield believes that the distinction between further education and sixth-form colleges will become blurred as the new sector develops.

A funding system which encourages expansion will increase competition between the two types of college at a time when independent, local authority and grant-maintained schools will all need to keep their numbers up. Some sixth-form colleges are already beginning to market themselves.

For the first year of independence, the colleges have been guaranteed stable budgets, but there is still considerable ap-

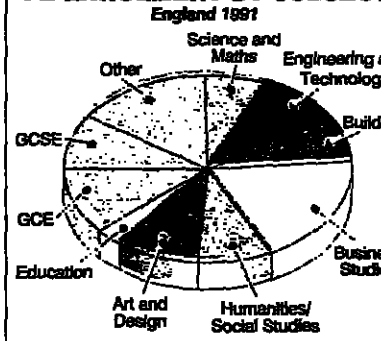
prehension about the longer term. Regional variations in provision by local authorities have meant differences of up to £200,000 a year in the budgets of similar-sized colleges. There are bound to be losers, as well as winners, in a national system.

None of the colleges lack confidence in their ability to manage their own affairs, especially after seeing secondary and even primary schools make a success of self-government. Almost 80 per cent of principals in a survey carried out by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* considered their college well prepared for independence.

Dr William Stubbs, the chief executive of the new Further Education Funding Council, insists that extra students will enable all 470 colleges to thrive. "Sixth-form colleges have a significant contribution to make in the expansion and improvement of post-16 education in England. The funding council recognises this, and will wish to see them continue to develop and grow."

He sees the new General National Vocational Qualifications as a major opening for sixth-form colleges, which will be encouraged to follow the

FE ENROLMENT BY SUBJECT



route pioneered by polytechnics and further education in lengthening the teaching day and making fuller use of existing buildings. The long-term funding system may also reward the sixth-form colleges' for their low drop-out rates and successful guidance of students at 16.

However, some principals still believe that the changes may be running ahead of the capacity of the system to adapt. Louise Kidd, the principal of Rutland College, in Leicestershire, who is also the president of the Secondary Heads Association, says: "My worry is that we are under great pressure to expand, but the curriculum may not be sufficiently varied to cater for more students. We need to look at new qualifications for the middle-ability group, and the government must take a lead."

John Patten, the education secretary, however, has made clear that he considers the present diet of A and AS-levels, and vocational qualifications to be sufficiently wide to meet all students' needs. He told the principals in December: "Our reforms are intended to give colleges opportunity to build on their strengths and to increase, not reduce diversity. Released from the constraints of local authority control, colleges will be able to develop in whatever directions they judge most likely to bring them success."

JOHN O'LEARY

## On the front line in a college for the 21st century

A wealth of modern facilities and a flood of students — but concern over funding

IT OPENED last September but Oldham Sixth Form College has spent less than a year within the control of Oldham Education Authority which commissioned and paid for it. This week it becomes independent and self-governing.

The principal, Nick Brown, pays tribute to the education authority. "Soon after work began, the government passed the act which took sixth form colleges out of local authority control. Oldham could have been extremely awkward and made cuts to the funding."

"But the authority wanted the college to be the best in the country and, despite financial difficulties, they stuck to their principles. In

fact, they have even paid out extra money to help the college cope with the extra expenses."

With a start-up cost of almost £20 million, it is the first purpose-built college of its kind in the UK for more than 20 years. Mr Brown calls it the only college designed for the 21st century. There are hundreds of computer terminals, a TV and radio studio with satellite links and facilities for professional standard recording, a 400-seat lecture theatre, a massive sports hall with multi-gym,

a 20,000-book library and fully equipped study rooms. The original intake of 600 places was massively over-subscribed.

The curriculum has been planned in close liaison with business but courses are broadly based. "We call it the learning contract. We talk to each student and tell them the qualifications they'll need for a particular job. But they also have to agree to learn a foreign language even if the language course is as short as six weeks. I sign each

contract and so do parents, spelling out what each student will give the college and what we will give them," Mr Brown says.

Finance may present problems in future. The college will not have completed its full student intake of around 1,200 until September, so its real running costs will not be gauged until the following summer.

"We will be funded by the government but they will expect financial efficiency and we will have to generate income to subsidise some of our activities," Mr Brown says. "We are already developing partnerships with industry."

BERNARD SILK



Tribute: Nick Brown

Fun and games at Bristol University as students role-play as world leaders and take momentous decisions

## Play war: it beats lectures



Students rarely study at weekends. So for a university department to persuade 40 of them to spend Friday to Sunday in the company of their lecturers, the carrot has to be good.

The Bristol University undergraduates, drawn mainly from the politics department, gathered to play what is known as a "crisis game", which is a war game, only political. Students take on the roles of world leaders and are thrown into a crisis — anything from the Gulf war to the Cuban missile crisis — to play at world politics rather than study it. The lecturers, or "gods" as they are known, referee the game, directing international affairs with a relish that comes only from a rare chance to wield power, however illusory.

Held twice a year at the university's conference centre, the game is diplomatic "pamphlet" without the paint. A region of the world is

chosen — this year the Far East — and the lecturers then write a scenario that pushes political reality a couple of months into an imaginary crisis.

Each team draws up detailed aims for the game. Students can then do anything that any other international statesman would do: forge a treaty, invade a country or plot an assassination. Each "move", whether open or secret, has to be written down on a piece of paper and signed by one of the gods, otherwise it has never happened. This not only keeps the game at a manageable pace, the gods can keep it realistic.

The latest scenario was this after provocative US army manoeuvres in South Korea and the discovery of nuclear weapon-making facilities in

North Korea, the two countries were almost at war. China was at the point of reinvading Taiwan. The Cambodian peace talks had broken down and almost everybody was claiming possession of the Spratly and Kurile Islands. Russia was paralysed by internal unrest and Japan was under attack for economic "expansionism" in the region.

Alistair Murray, 22, a research student doing an M Phil in international political theory, said the scenario was "a condensation of every crisis that has happened in this part of the world in the last 40 years. In one sense it is realistic, in another it is pure fantasy." The present confrontation between the Koreans in real life, over US military manoeuvres in the South and

the withdrawal from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty by the North, was exactly anticipated by the scenario.

The games are often accused of lacking reality; how can a group of uninformed undergraduates possibly make decisions in the same way as experienced, professional diplomats and politicians?

Ian Manners, 28, another research student, said: "Most of the students know nothing of what happened in Cambodia in the 1970s but here they are doing exactly what was done then."

Crisis gaming has its history in reality. It originated in the Rand Corporation, then a US airforce nuclear strategy think-tank, in the late 1950s when strategists realised they

were inexperienced at dealing with the new international crises that brought nations to the brink of war. The games then moved to America's east coast universities, then Britain.

For the strategists, the game was to predict how the crisis would unfold. This is less true for the students. "These games are intended to be brainstorming sessions for the students, they are not predictive," said Dr Nick Rengger, lecturer in international politics. This can also be the case for the strategists. "They gained the Berlin crisis hundreds of times and they never thought of building a wall," he said.

The real purpose is to teach the students. Mr Manners said: "At the end of the game they know so much more

about the ins and outs of South East Asian politics."

Before the game starts, each student is given a briefing pack to become familiar with the names, the places and the issues. Giles Chapman, 19, a first-year politics and economics student, said he thought the game should be part of the course. "I have learnt a very good grounding in South East Asia," he said. "I had no knowledge, but now I do."

Students also have to defend their decisions and policies, in character, in public "plenary" sessions. "People learn to formulate arguments and how to defend them in a diplomatic way," said Jasper Ehrhardt, 20. "They learn how to deal with pressure."

Celine Mckewon, 18, said: "It gives you an insight into the responsibility of the leaders when they take these decisions. It is frightening really."

JAMES LANDALE









The toast is "women": from the left, Liz Wright, Yve Newbold, Jan Hall, Mavis Gradwell and Patsy Bloom

## Finalists line up for top award

A PET insurance expert, design consultant and corporate clothier are among the five finalists shortlisted for the Business Woman of the Year award announced yesterday by Veuve Clicquot, its sponsor, (Susan Gilchrist writes).

The finalists are Patsy Bloom, managing director of Pet Plan Group, a £20 million pet insurance company; Mavis Gradwell, joint managing director of Simon Jersey, a corporate clothing company; Jan Hall, chairman and chief executive of Coley Porter Bell, a design consultancy listing Unilever and ICI among its clients; Yve Newbold, company secretary of Hanson, the industrial conglomerate; and Liz Wright, managing director of Charlie Brown Auto-centres, a Kingsfisher subsidiary dealing in car spares. The winner of the title, whose previous recipients have included Anita Roddick of Bodyshop and Prue Leith, the restaurateur, will receive her award from Virginia Bottomley, health secretary, on April 14.

## Companies expect pay increases to gather speed

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS confidence has deteriorated over the past six months, but companies still expect to award higher pay increases over the next year, according to a survey by Reward Group.

The survey, carried out in January, showed that only 68 per cent of managers polled are confident that economic prospects would improve over the next year, compared with 70 per cent in September. They were also less optimistic about prospects for their own companies: 65 per cent expect a 10 per cent increase, compared with 74 per cent in September.

Reward said: "Participants early on in the six-month period that enthusiasm and confidence had waned. Equally, there is a general feeling that the economy is not as healthy as it was in the summer, or prospectively so."

The survey showed that pay increases had fallen across the board, but were still running at about 3.5 per cent in February, in the context of a

headline rate of inflation in January of only 1.7 per cent. Managers, on average, received 4.4 per cent increases in basic pay in the year to February.

Reward commented that companies that had awarded 3.5 per cent pay increases over the previous 12 months were forecasting rises of more than 4 per cent in the next 12. "It appears that there is still a barrier below which companies feel unable to fall," Steve Elphinstone, Reward's managing director, suggested that companies were paying above-inflation increases to retain key staff.

In the report accompanying the survey, Reward predicts that the government's policy of imposing a ceiling on public-sector pay will run into difficulties. It says: "It may very well work for one year, but eventually the pressure cooker lid will blow off, and all the constraints and tensions built up in the system will explode. Pay

relationships, review bodies and the like will all jockey for positions, and a general sense of chaos will ensue."

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, confirmed last week that the current 1.5 per cent ceiling on public-sector pay awards would not be extended beyond the current year.

Pay increases in British companies are falling but still outstrip inflation, a survey by Hay Group, a management consultancy, indicates. The survey, which covered 188,000 jobs in more than 570 companies, found that awards averaged 4.2 per cent in the last quarter of 1992, compared with 6 per cent a year previously. The inflation rate over the period was 1.8 per cent. Senior managers came out on top, with increases of 5.6 per cent for the quarter. Middle managers received only 3.6 per cent and clerical staff 4.2 per cent.

Hay forecasts that average salary increases will remain about 4 per cent this year.

## Airlines losing £135 a seat, say analysts

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

VIRGIN Atlantic and British Airways' escalation of the transatlantic air fare war is likely to be losing them at least £135 on each return economy seat on a 747 jet from London to the US East Coast.

Independent US consulting figures estimate the direct and indirect cost to the airlines of a 16-hour return Atlantic 747 crossing at about \$565.76, almost \$200 more than BA or Virgin are now charging their customers. According to the latest figures accepted industry-wide, a 747-400 costs \$35.36 per seat to keep in the air for an hour. The return flight time from the UK to the US is calculated at 16 hours, giving a per-seat cost of \$565.76. Including fuel, salaries, paint, food, advertising and public relations, the total cost of sending one 400-seater 747 across the Atlantic and back is estimated at just under \$250,000.

On Friday, BA cut its return fare to the east coast by £80 to £259 (\$380), a price not seen for three years. Virgin then undercut by £10 to £249 (\$366). The moves put further pressure on the loss-making US airlines scrambling for passengers in the world's busiest air space.

Faced with stiff competition and unable to sell seats, TWA

has recently thrown one in ten seats out of their planes and replaced economy with a new Comfort Class which promises footrests and 50 per cent more legroom in economy class.

A comfort war for business travellers is heating up between Continental and Virgin, which took full page advertisements in US newspapers ridiculing Continental's Business First class, saying it was first to offer personal videos, and has only four seats across its Upper Class cabin against Continental's six.

The top five US airlines lost \$1 billion each last year and are likely to stay billions in the red this year.

Paul Turk, an independent aviation consultant based in Washington, said: "The latest fare war is a fight to find the deepest pocket. There are still not enough passengers in the seats and prices are too low. No-one is making money at these levels and I think before too long we will see mergers among the US airlines if the weakest are to survive in some form."

## REPORTING THIS WEEK

## Buoyancy in the Far East should help Inchcape to strong profit increase

INCHCAPE, the motor and business services group, should report a healthy advance in full-year profits, today, helped by growth in the Far East and a ten-month contribution from Tozer Kemley & Millbourn.

Headed by Sir David Plastow, non-executive chairman, and Charles Mackay, chief executive, the company is likely to turn in final pre-tax profits of £245 million (£185.2 million), according to Bob Carpenter of Kleinwort Benson. Forecasts range from £240 million to £250 million.



Blakenham: decline

### TODAY

Pearson, the conglomerate chaired by Lord Blakenham, is expected to unveil lower full-year profits, depressed by a tough year in oil services and in its banking and Royal Doulton china divisions. Final pre-tax profits of £139 million (£173.8 million) are likely, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Forecasts range from £134 million to £145 million.

Charles Lambert at Smith New Court expects Hickson International, the specialty chemicals group, to turn in final pre-tax profits of £29 million (£23.7 million). Forecasts range from £28 million to £30 million. A maintained dividend of 8p is expected.

Lucas Industries, the motor to aerospace components group that is undergoing a restructuring and cost-cutting programme, should report first-half pre-tax profits of £2.5 million (£0.2 million), according to NatWest Securities. Forecasts range from break-even to £10 million.

Interim: Lucas Industries, MY, Scottish Asian Investment.

Finals: Aspen Communications, Computer People, Edinburgh Fund Managers, Forth Ports, Hickson International, Inchcape, Linwood, Macallan-Glenlivet, Needler, Pearson.

### TOMORROW

Substantial write-downs on property and housing land will take their toll of Taylor Woodrow, pushing the property to construction group

deep into the red at the full-year stage. Mark Hake at Nikko, the Japanese securities house, forecasts a final pre-tax loss of £65 million, including £60 million of property and land provisions, against a loss of £2.7 million last time. Loss forecasts range from £60 million to £75 million. A substantial reduced dividend of 1p (9p) is predicted.

A good turnaround and favourable raw material costs should help final pre-tax profits at Croda International, the chemicals group, to advance to £29 million (£21.3 million), according to Smith New Court.

Interim: Allied London Properties, Burn Stewart Distillers, Lloyd Thompson, Portugal Fund.

Finals: Avonmore Foods, BLP, Brake Brothers, Consolidated Venture Trust, Croda International, EBC, EW Fact, Estates & General, Henderson Highland

### WEDNESDAY

Harrisons & Crosfield, the trading, building products and food group, should make £85 million (£71.2 million) full year, says UBS Phillips & Drew. Forecasts range from £80 million to £90 million.

Fergus MacLeod at NatWest Securities expects Calor, the bottled gas group, to report final net income of £18 million (£30.5 million), after write-offs of £14.8 million for cost cuts and redundancies.

Interim: Advest, Bridport-Gundry, Sinclair Goldsmith.

Finals: Arcon International Resources, Ash & Lacy, Aynshire Metal Products, JCU, William Baird, Central Independent TV, Country Casuals, Culver, Fife Indmar, Gramplan, Harrisons & Crosfield, Norman Hay, Hogg, House of Lorese, Hungarian Investment, Johnston, London Securities (18 months), Ossen, Plateau Mining, OS, Schell Senior Engineering, Taylor Nelson AGB, Tibury Douglas.

Economic statistics: Gross domestic expenditure on research and development (1991).

### THURSDAY

Julie Ramshaw of Morgan Stanley, the American securities house, expects Next, the fashion retailer, to report final pre-tax profits of £33.3 million (£12.3 million).

Interim: Balfour Gifford Japan, MJ Gleason.

Finals: Aegon NV, Boustead, Burnham Central, Fairhaven International, Great Southern, John Jacobs, Thomas Jordan, Next, Spirex-Sanco Engineering, Tanjong, TJS Range, World of Leather.

Economic statistics: New vehicle registrations.

### FRIDAY

Interim: None announced.

Finals: Associated Fisheries, British Dredging, Evered Bardon, Gaskell, Invesco MIM, New Ireland, Rishbone Brothers, Shorro, Ullster Television.

Economic statistics: UK official reserves (March), housing starts and completions (February), house renovations (Q4).

Plastow: advance

PHILIP PANGALOS

## Auction risks trouble investors

SUPPLY considerations are again troubling the gilt market, and the steady bull run between late January and early March has petered out. We remain cautious of the longer end of the market, and expect those yields to drift gradually upwards. However, there is still a good chance of one more base rate cut, which would again steepen the yield curve.

Uppermost in gilt investors' minds this week will be the risk of one of the Bank of England's gilt auctions failing. Not only is the frequency of these offerings to be doubled to about one a month, the size of each auction is also of concern. This Wednesday sees the first of the new batch of auctions and, at £3 billion, it is the largest ever. Last week's price fall, after the announcement of the new issue, highlighted investors' concerns that the auction may be undersubscribed. Some will argue

that, even if this auction is successful, monthly offerings of a similar size are certain to unsettle the market, and may rapidly exhaust demand.

Another negative for the market is the UK's inflation-prone history, which justifies a risk premium on UK bonds above those in Germany and America. The expected sharp rise in the government debt/GDP ratio is a particular concern: even on the Treasury's own projections, this ratio does not stabilise over the medium term.

As the debt/GDP ratio rises, so interest payments on the national debt absorb an increasing proportion of government expenditure. Political expediency dictates that governments in this situation can be tempted to resort to higher inflation, rather than engage in further expenditure cuts and tax increases.

Further worries for bonds centre on political problems in

Russia, where the power struggle could run for some time — well beyond President Yeltsin's April 25 referendum. Disillusionment with the reform programme and voter apathy may well lead to an indecisive outcome, with a risk of further fragmentation and military intervention.

There are some positive factors for the long end of the gilt market. For example, European bond yields, particularly French OATs, still have further to fall. In France, monetary conditions are very tight, depressing activity and inflation, and ten-year yields look set to fall to under 7 per cent by the end of 1993.

Other good news for the gilt yield curve is likely to come from a summer base rate cut. Further cuts seem to have been ruled out for the immediate future: this is already factored into short gilts and short-money instruments. Indeed, some have recently been a little

optimistic — the June short sterling future looks a good speculative buy at levels a little above 94-00 (suggesting three-month interest rates at just under 6 per cent in June). By June, it is possible that pressure could be back on for a cut of at least 50 basis points.

Although the UK economy is now showing clear signs of recovery, confidence is still fragile: it needs to be sustained and accelerated, not least to be able to stand the very large tax increases in 1994-5 and 1995-6. Therefore, the Chancellor will be watching for any signs of economic activity and growth faltering in the next few months, and for any factors that threaten the pace of recovery.

For this reason, it is doubtful that the Chancellor would want to see sterling a lot stronger on a trade-weighted basis — export growth is a vital ingredient for recovery. Once sterling reaches DM2.50, and shows signs of stability, the government may decide to take advantage of this and cut interest rates for a final time.

The steepness of the yield curve, after a base rate cut, will encourage some investors to switch longer. This will reduce funding pressures, but may not be enough to stop yields moving higher.

We therefore expect that the yield curve will gradually steepen during the summer, and look for the three-year to 20-year spread to widen by some 50 basis points. While there will still be opportunities for shorter term profits in longer — there is still money to go into the far end of the yield curve, and buying dips at support levels offer a viable trading opportunity — the longer term yield trend is now upwards, and the longest gilts should be yielding 9 per cent by the year end.

STEPHEN SCOTT  
JULIAN CALLOW  
(Gilt analyst and European Bond Economist respectively)  
Kleinwort Benson

### CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar  
1.4917 (-0.0028)  
German mark  
2.4327 (-0.0026)  
Exchange index  
79.3 (same)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share  
2214.8 (-54.0)  
FT-SE 100  
2852.9 (-47.2)  
New York Dow Jones  
3439.98 (-31.60)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avg  
18786.70 (+251.53)

### Answers from page 40

#### GENTLEMAN IN BLACK VELVET

(a) The little gentleman in black velvet was a mole, and a favourite of Jacobite toast to the king across the water in the reign of Queen Anne. The reference was to the mole that raised the molehill against William III's (of Orange) horse Sorrel stumbled on February 21, 1702, while he was out riding.

#### HERO OF ALIWA

(b) and (c) General Sir Harry Smith was a brigade major at the siege of Badajoz in the Peninsular War. He rescued a Spanish aristocrat, Juanita de los Dolores, from the sack and rape and pillage, and married her on the spot. He won a famous victory in the Sikh Wars at Aliwal in 1846, and shortly thereafter was made Governor of Cape Colony. The towns of Harrisville and Lady Smith were named for him and his wife. Harris came from Whitesley, where the pub still commemorates him.

#### JAMES PIGG

(c) Jorrock's drunken huntsman in Handley Cross et alius of the Surtees oeuvre. One evening when Jorrock and Pigg had been drinking steadily, Jorrock asked Pigg to open the shutters and see what the weather was like. Confused by booze, Pigg opened a larder door by mistake, and reported: "Helish dark, and smells of cheese".

#### MALEUS SCOTTORUM

(d) Edward I, "Hammer of the Scots". In fact he was more of a maleus Cambrianorum, since he conquered Wales and pegged it down with great castles. His campaign against Scotland was long and futile, and the title was propaganda.

#### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

The black defences became overloaded following: 1. Be4! Qxe4 (1... Nxe4 drops the queen) 2. Qxb5+ Kc8 3. Ba5+ mating.

## British Gas advises its industrial and commercial contract customers of changes to the FI5 Schedule indexation terms.

### THE FI5 SCHEDULE INDEXATION

Contracts entered into on or after 1st January 1993 under the terms of the FI5 Schedule on or after 1st May 1993 where the customer selects the indexed price option a new fixed indexation date will be introduced.

General Note 4 (Indexed-linked Contracts) of the FI5 Schedule will be amended by the addition of a new paragraph to be inserted immediately after existing paragraph (A) of General Note 4.

Under the contract it is agreed with this Schedule the mechanism for determining the price of gas, in accordance with the specific indexation terms selected by the Customer, shall be set out in the price indexation formula utilising indices which give effect to the indexation terms. The Schedule Indexation Formulae are the prices shown in Table 1 for firm gas contracts and Table 2 for interruptible gas contracts based at 1st January 1993 which are indexed to the 2 months September and October 1994.

Copies of all Schedules and Conditions of Contract are available from the Registered and Regional Head Offices of British Gas.

Head Office: British Gas plc, Registered Office: Moorfields House, 150 Broad Street, London EC2M 6PU. Registered in England No. 1292769. Registered Office: Moorfields House, 150 Broad Street, London EC2M 6PU.

British Gas



LIFE as a stockbroker can be dangerous. Denis Elliot, head of the Scottish desk at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, showed true grit on a recent tour of Edinburgh institutions. He was left somewhat the worse for wear after someone opened a taxi door in his face at the airport, badly cutting his lip. Unperturbed, he manfully managed to stay the course for a few meetings before retiring to have his wounds seen to. We all wish him a speedy recovery.







## Reprieved pits' market is in doubt

By ROSS TIEMAN  
AND MARTIN WALLER

BRITISH Coal this week begins the statutory consultation needed to halt production at nine pits. It does so amid mounting scepticism that an adequate market can be found for output from the 12 mines supposedly reprieved by Michael Heseltine's coal white paper.

Seven gas-fired power stations are scheduled to come on stream this year, increasing pressure on the big generating groups to close yet more coal-burning plants.

Executives at both British Coal and the generators admit privately that because the government failed to address the failings of the electricity market, they cannot see where all 20 million tonnes of coal the "reprieved" mines can produce each year will be burned.

According to British Coal projections, the generators planned to import nine million tonnes of coal in 1993-4, while stocks are more than twice the levels needed to ensure security of supplies.

Malcolm Edwards, a former commercial director of British Coal and now an independent consultant who has given evidence before the Select Committee, said yesterday that Mr Heseltine's announcement that 12 pits

■ Concern is growing that the 12 pits reprieved by Michael Heseltine's white paper on the coal industry will have difficulty finding a market for their coal production

would be reprieved was either "incredibly naive", "untrue", or a "spoof". He believes that MPs were "taken in" by the announcement because British Coal named the pits that would stay open. He does not believe a deal with the generators is in place.

The vulnerability of the "reprieved" pits will be underscored today when National Power and PowerGen tell the Stock Exchange they have signed long-delayed contracts to buy 160 million tonnes of coal, worth £5.76 billion, over the next five years. The deal will be underpinned by agreements with 11 regional electricity companies to take power worth £13 billion generated from the fuel. These contracts will secure the future only of the 20 pits British Coal has meant to keep since October.

"We are in a winding-down phase," a British Coal executive said. The ill-defined subsidy proposals would leave the corporation, in effect, with two businesses. One, based on today's contracts, would be robust and profitable. The other, involving the 12 "reprieved"

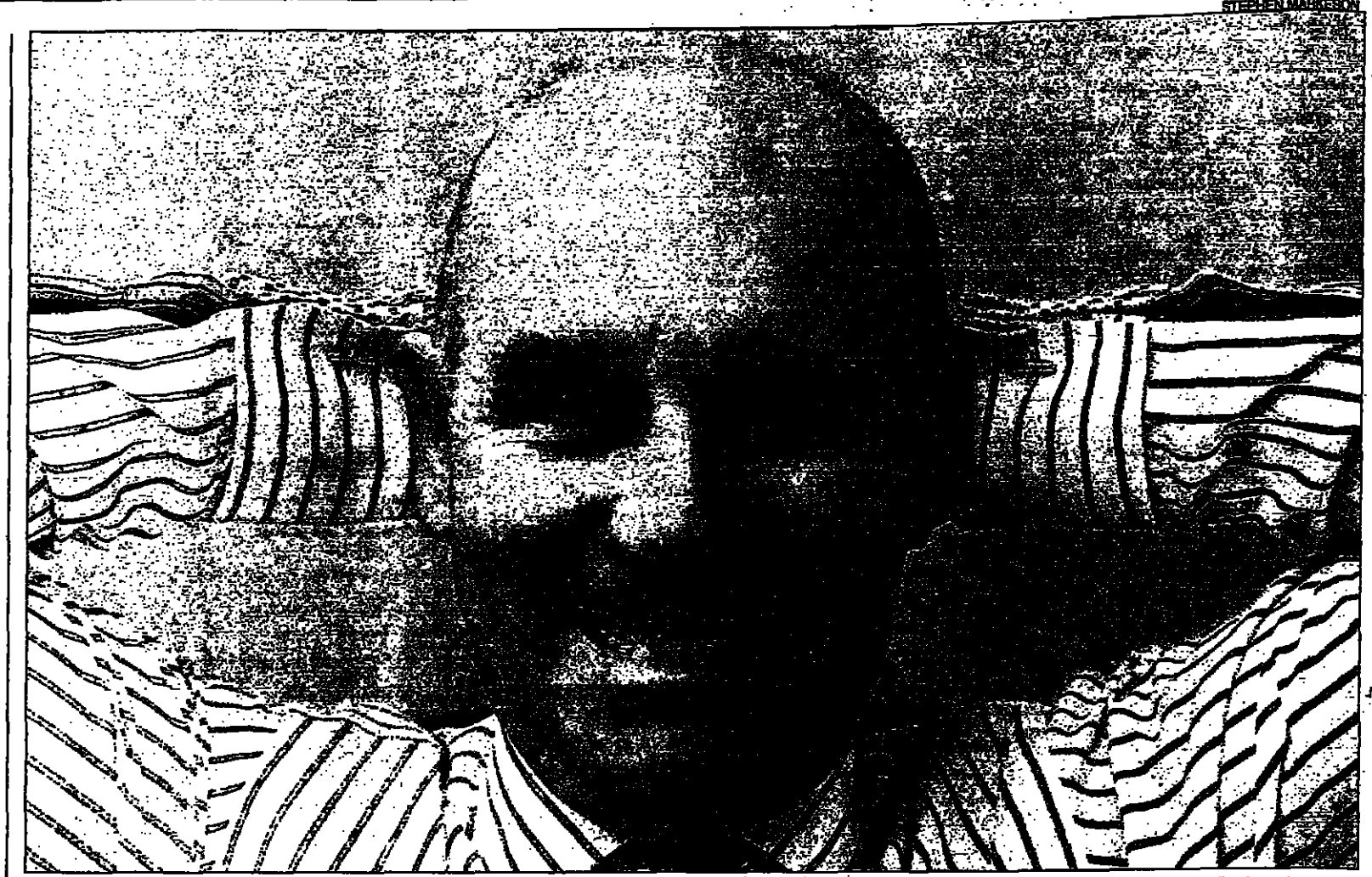
pits, would be "very dodgy", competing for marginal business with the aid of subsidies.

British Coal officials insisted last night that they had made clear all along that the pits were being kept alive during a "market testing" exercise. British Coal would do its utmost to secure extra sales, but the future of the 12 pits would depend on the market test. If no market for the pits' output was found, the 12 would be put up for sale in the private sector. Should no buyers be found, British Coal would have to consider what options were left.

Production from new gas plants is already squeezing coal-burning plants off the power grid. Last year, PowerGen burned almost 20 million tonnes of coal, and National Power almost 40 million. In the year to April 1994, both together have contracted to take just 40 million tonnes from British Coal.

In earlier talks with ministers, the generators said that even with subsidies, they could buy only 40 million extra tonnes of coal over the next five years. PowerGen, the smaller of the two, is expected to take a particularly tough line. Since it has contracted to buy almost 16 million tonnes of coal in 1993-4, the company can buy less than four million extra tonnes a year without adding to already excessive stocks.

Ministers may hope that private companies, which are estimated to have burned some 6.5 million tonnes of British coal this year, will buy more of British Coal's output to substitute for imports. But industry is also rapidly switching to gas for its energy needs, and making some of its own electricity in the process.



Signing off: Tony McStravick, an officer in the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad for 12 years, retires this week as the squad's head

## Fraud chief calls for panel of judges

By TONY HETHERINGTON

ONE of Britain's most experienced Fraud Squad officers has called for the establishment of a special panel of judges to sit with juries in complex fraud cases.

Detective Chief Superintendent Tony McStravick, who retires this week after handing over control of the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad to Commander George Churchill-Coleman, claims some members of the judiciary are simply unable to follow the issues involved, while others lack the ability to manage lengthy trials.

Mr McStravick, 57, said: "I think there is a need to have specialist, properly trained, judges and barristers for cases involving complex fraud. And I think they should be trained in the management of a long trial. It is a managerial problem as much as a legal problem nowadays. If a trial is going to last six, nine or 12 months, it needs a special type of person. Not all of them have the ability."

Judges, Mr McStravick believes, are allowing unreasonable

conduct by defence counsel rather than risk giving grounds for appeal if the accused is convicted. Such weakness on the part of judges can even allow defendants to employ costly delaying tactics. These cases are now so expensive to investigate that you could say, for example, that it might cost the police £2 million to mount a prosecution over two or three years," he said.

Mr McStravick, who has spent 12 years as a fraud squad officer, said that in response to the growing complexity of financial offences, some minor suspects in fraud were no longer being prosecuted.

"The judicial system cannot deal with multiple defendants. We have had one or two examples of this in the past couple of years. If a number of persons appear together, charged with conspiracy to defraud, and you split them up, then you lose a lot of the evidence of that conspiracy. But how do you try ten or 11 people at the same time? You cannot."

## Trade war threatens hopes of world economic recovery

By OUR ECONOMICS STAFF

A TRANSATLANTIC trade war poses real risks for recovery of the world's economies, according to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

In its annual world trade report, GATT said markets should be kept open and the stalled Uruguay Round talks on a new world trade treaty lowering tariffs should be completed. Trade, which had grown at more than double the rate of output over the past four years, "has been a source of relative strength in an otherwise mostly weak economic environment, especially for slow-growth countries," the report said.

The report said growth in world trade rose in 1992 for the first time in four years as North America emerged from recession and developing countries maintained strong import demand. The volume of world merchandise trade rose 4.5 per cent last year, 1.5 per cent more than in 1991 and the first time since recession began to bite in 1989 that a slowdown in growth had been reversed.

The overall value of trade climbed 5.5 per cent, reaching \$3,700 billion, while trade in commercial services — including transport, telecommunications, banking and insurance — had grown 8 per cent, reaching \$960 billion.

GATT said North America, largely the United States, and Asia excluding Japan were the highest performing regions for export and import growth, while Latin American states and the Middle East showed a big climb in imports.

According to the report, based on preliminary figures from across the world, Germany's slow and then negative economic growth caused a slump in the growth of imports from 13 per cent in 1991 to 2 per cent last year. This was a key element in a drop of from 4 to 2 per cent in import growth for the whole of Western Europe including the European Community and

the European Free Trade Association.

Sources of relative strength in 1993 will be mainly North America and Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. While Japan's import growth fell 2 per cent in 1992 after a 0.5 climb in 1991, these six kept their imports climbing 11.5 per cent after a 16.5 per cent surge in 1991. Chinese exports rose 18 per cent in 1992, against 16 per cent in 1991, and boosted its import growth from 19.5 in 1991 to 26.5 last year.

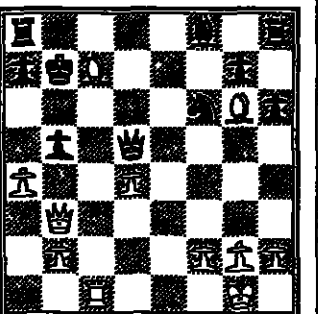
□ Sir Leon Brittan, EC trade commissioner, will meet Mickey Kantor, US trade representative, in Brussels for less than three hours today to discuss transatlantic trade. The brevity of the meeting suggests they will announce a truce, or extend the stand-off, in the dispute over public purchasing that has led to fears of an EC-US trade war.

Balance shifts, page 38

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Gokubev-Sher, Geneva 1993. White has sacrificed a rook for an attack against the black king and now finished off with a delightful combination. Can you see it?



Solution on page 37

### WORD WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

HISTORICALS

GENTLEMAN IN BLACK

VELVET

a. A lethal mole

b. An 18th-century peer's valet

c. The inventor of a drink

HERO OF ALJWAL

a. A pub in Whiteley

b. A Kipling short story

c. A famous general

JAMES PIGG

a. A Beatrix Potter character

b. Lord Emsworth's first pigman

c. Jorrocks's drunken huntsman

MALLEUS SCOTTORUM

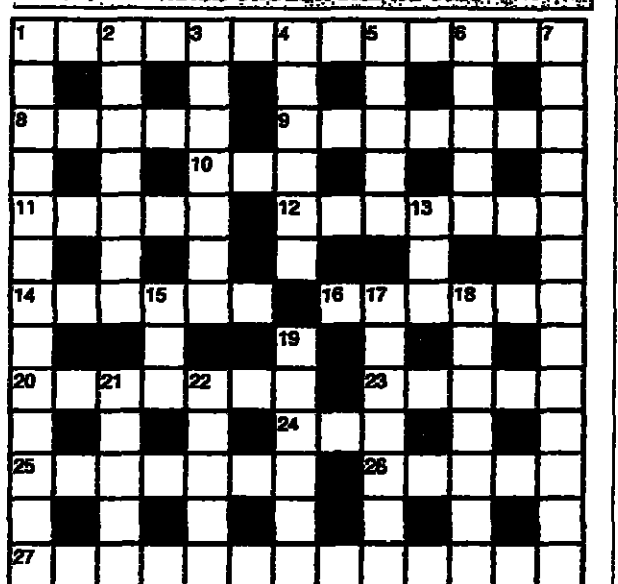
a. The caber

b. Glasgow tummy

c. Edward I

Answers on page 37

### CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3068



ACROSS

1 Personality disorder (13)

8 Fit out (5)

9 Springy (7)

10 Intimidate (3)

11 Glycerol explosive (5)

12 Huge (7)

14 Deserved (6)

16 Stringed soundbox (6)

20 Army member (7)

23 Siena horse race (5)

24 Fuss (3)

25 Competing (7)

26 Put in position (3,2)

27 Extravagant shopping (8,5)

DOWN

1 Firm actions (5,8)

2 Ghost (7)

3 US mail system (3,4)

4 Lapwing (6)

5 Kingdom (5)

6 Out (3,2)

7 Great Paris monument (3,2,8)

13 Consume (3)

15 Daze (3)

17 Duties, taxes (7)

18 Pistol case (7)

19 Welsh symbol (6)

21 Spear (5)

22 Trojan siege epic (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3057  
ACROSS: 1 Nepotism 5 Arch 9 Swimmer 10 Collie 11 Seal 12 Nowhere 14 Homage 16 Soread 19 Windsor 21 Rote 24 Organ 25 Courses 26 Mark 27 Heanwave  
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## Talks over Fraser buyout

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE Fayed brothers are in negotiations to sell the House of Fraser department store chain to its management for £290 million, one of the biggest buyouts in British retailing history.

The management team in the deal — which excludes the flagship Harrods store, in Knightsbridge — is led by James Walsh, House of Fraser's finance director. Electra Kingsway, a leading venture capital company, is considering financing the buyout and is conducting due diligence on the retail chain, which has

about 60 outlets. If the deal goes ahead, another senior director will probably be sought from outside.

It is believed that Electra would provide more than half of the £290 million, possibly with the help of Clayton & Dubilier, a US buyout specialist. The remainder would be borrowed from banks.

The Fayedes wanted substantially more than the amount now on the table to ease their debt burden. House of Fraser's last published accounts are reported to show bank loans of £100 million payable

in 1993-4 and a further £50 million in 1995-6. Total borrowings at House of Fraser Holdings, the parent company, exceed £775 million.

Two years ago, Goldman Sachs mooted the idea of finding a buyer for the chain, which includes Dickens & Jones, DH Evans, Dingles and Army & Navy. No one, however, was willing to offer close to the £573 million the Fayedes paid in 1985.

Yesterday, House of Fraser refused to comment on the buyout plan or on Electra's involvement.

## Eurotunnel wins TML ruling

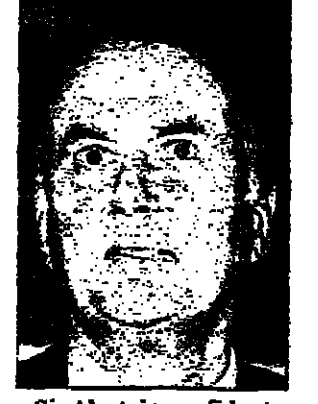
By COLIN CAMPBELL

EUROTUNNEL, headed by Sir Alastair Morton, will today announce a significant legal victory in its long-running dispute with Transmanche Link, its contractors.

The findings of a tribunal of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Paris will show that claims against Eurotunnel by TML have been pared from £1.4 billion to about £720 million. The tribunal will order that TML must now submit all claims for compensation of the fixed equipment works on an individual, rather than a lump sum, basis, and that such claims be fully substantiated.

Eurotunnel will use the opportunity of a favourable ICC ruling to reiterate that it does not plan to raise fresh funds from shareholders for the multi-million pound tunnel project until an opening date has been set.

While Eurotunnel has not denied that, in time, fresh



Sir Alastair: confident

capital will be needed, the amount needed can only be determined in 1994 or 1995.

Eurotunnel, which analysts calculate, derives interest savings of £150 million from every two percentage points fall in interest rates, yesterday said weekend media reports of a plan entitled Eurotunnel Review of Financing Options were based on an historic document circulated last autumn. Subsequent develop-

ments have overtaken events, and the inference that the group's 220 banks "were closing in" was wrong and off beam, Eurotunnel said.

The ICC ruling comes after TML's original July 1991 claim that its costs for fixed tunnel equipment had risen to more than £1.4 billion. In March 1992, a disputes panel ruled that Eurotunnel should pay interim sums on account. Eurotunnel disagreed, and took the issue to ICC arbitration.

Eurotunnel will also learn that TML cannot pursue a global claim for additional payments, and that TML's argument that the payment basis be changed from "lump sum" to a "cost-plus-fee basis" has been rejected. The lump sum was originally priced at £620 million, based on 1985 values, though after variation orders the figure now stands at £720 million. This compares with TML's alleged costs of more than £1.4 billion.

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